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MONEY MAGAZINE
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Direct Israeli-Syrian talks to resume

ISRAEL and Syria are soon to reopen negotiations in search of a peace settlement, with their military chiefs participating along with the diplomats, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said yesterday in Damascus, after a second day of marathon meetings with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Christopher made the announcement with evident relief at the end of an eight-day peacemaking trip to the region. "It's turned out to be one of the most satisfying trips I have made to the Middle East," he said.

Jerusalem last night welcomed the resumption of peace talks with Syria, saying

LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

it came about without Israeli concessions.

"We are satisfied at the resumption of talks. This was our goal. We didn't concede on any of our positions and our determination is what led to the resumption of talks," said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman, Oded Ben-Ami.

"There has been almost no change in my stand on negotiations with Syria," Rabin reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee earlier in the day.

"What does 'almost' mean?" Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu immediately asked, to which Rabin replied: "It's not significant. Maybe a word here and there. I believe the talks with Syria will be resumed, because it would be unpleasant for the Syrians to refuse the Americans."

Rabin added, however, that he was not sure Israel's four-point proposal for negotiations would be accepted by the Syrians as a basis for talks. The four points are: the peace border; the withdrawal timetable; a preliminary limited pullback; and security arrangements.

"Israel's situation dictates the formulation of the most (Continued on Page 2)

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"Israel's situation dictates the formulation of the most (Continued on Page 2)

Activist US role is tradeoff with Assad

US SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher's announcement last night that direct Israel-Syria peace talks would resume now after a three-month hiatus marks a significant, if implicit, political tradeoff.

While Israel traditionally likes the idea of direct talks with Arabs, and particularly Syria, there had seemed to be a sense in Damascus that the talks had no chance to succeed. The Syrian's believe Israel's positions are too tough.

However, Israel Radio already announced after Christopher's statement last night that Damascus has been promised stepped-up American involvement. Thus the tradeoff seems to be clear: Damascus has agreed to restart talks, as Israel has desired, in a return for a US commitment to take a more active role in pressing Washington's own ideas. By all indications, US involvement in the peace process has just entered a new pro-active phase.

COMMENT
DAVID MAKOVSKY

Whether by assuming a more assertive role in the Washington negotiations or in more meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Hafez Assad, the US will move from being the procedural facilitator it has been over much of the last three and a half years to being a more energetic force, by offering its own ideas on how to move the talks forward.

Christopher - who delved into the substance of security arrangements for the first time with Assad this week - was unmistakably clear that the US will be involved in the all-important issue of security arrangements on the Golan.

While saying it is the parties who must make peace, Christopher also said: "It is my role to try to be helpful, creative, supportive, and inventive; to provide options for the parties and help them get together on what will inevitably be one of the most difficult issues of this peace process between them."



Members of the outlawed Kach movement sell books lauding Machpela Cave murderer Baruch Goldstein in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim yesterday. Story, Page 12.

Husseini: Major supports Palestinian claims in Jerusalem

BRITISH Prime Minister John Major yesterday reiterated his country's support for Palestinian claims to eastern Jerusalem, PLO official Faisal Husseini said after meeting Major.

The Palestinians declared their meeting with Major at the British Consulate in Jerusalem a "symbolic victory."

At the same time, they dismissed as insignificant government pressure that forced British Minister of State Douglas Hogg to cancel his planned visit to Orient House, PLO headquarters in the city.

"We are meeting with Major in Jerusalem. That is what is important," said Hanan Ashrawi, former spokeswoman of the Palestinian peace talks delegation.

Major declined to comment after the meeting with Palestinian leaders at the consulate in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. The Palestinians largely

JON IMMANUEL and BILL HUTMAN

snubbed the meeting with Andrew Green, an official with the Foreign Office, at Orient House that was scheduled in place of the original visit planned by Hogg.

Husseini arrived at Orient House as Green was leaving. Sari Nusseibeh, one of the Palestinian leaders on hand when Green arrived, said afterwards "There was no meeting."

Earlier, Major visited the Gaza Strip and announced a £7 million increase in British aid to £82 million over three years.

Major, the first non-Muslim premier to visit the Palestinian Authority in Gaza, met with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in the morning, receiving a stately red carpet and honor guard treatment outside Arafat's office.

Arafat and Major hosted a roundtable of British and Palestinian businessmen. However, Major canceled a visit to Shati refugee camp after Arafat's bodyguard accidentally shot dead a 10-year-old boy there.

Arafat met the British convoy inside the Gaza Strip a few kilometers after it passed through the Erez checkpoint, and Major transferred to Arafat's car for the trip to Gaza.

Major, a former banker, focused on economic issues. He said the gathering of businessmen at the roundtable in the Shawa cultural center was "perhaps undoubtedly the strongest team of British businessmen ever collectively to leave British shores together. They represent some of Britain's largest companies... They have demonstrated the ability of their enterprises to succeed often in very difficult economic climates."

The British aid distributed as (Continued on Page 2)

Clinton plans executive order blocking US-Iran oil deal

HILLEL KUTTLER and MARILYN HENRY
WASHINGTON and NEW YORK

PRESIDENT Clinton said yesterday he will block a US oil company's subsidiary deal to develop two Gulf oil fields for Iran because the arrangement undermines his efforts to crack down on Teheran.

Clinton decided yesterday to issue an executive order prohibiting US companies from helping Iran develop its petroleum industry.

Conoco, a unit of Du Pont, said in a statement issued in Houston that Du Pont's board of directors wouldn't approve the contract with the National Iranian Oil Company if the US government opposed it.

The order, which is expected to be released today, comes in response to the \$1 billion deal reached last week, according to which Conoco would develop two of Iran's offshore oil fields. The order would prevent the deal from proceeding.

The Conoco agreement drew fire not only from Washington, but from a bloc on the board of its parent company, the US chemical giant E.I. Du Pont & Co.

The New York Times reported yesterday that the Bronfmans - Edgar, Charles and Edgar Jr. - who control the Seagram Co., which owns 24.2 percent of Du Pont were expected to vote against the Conoco deal.

There also were unconfirmed reports that Edgar Bronfman, head of the World Jewish Congress, had met recently with key Republican members of Congress, including Speaker Newt Gingrich, majority leader Robert Dole, and foreign relations chairman Jesse Helms to discuss his opposition to the oil deal.

Under US law, oil deals signed by American companies with Iran are not illegal provided the oil does not enter the US.

But White House spokesman Mike McCurry said late yesterday that Clinton's aim is to seek to "contain and isolate Iran" while serving to "add credibility" to US efforts to rally international pressure against Iran.

The administration worked in tandem with senior Conoco executives on the matter, and Clinton "appreciates the willingness of Conoco to work with us on this important issue," a White House spokesman said of its plans for the executive order.

Gingrich told a delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations yesterday that the administration should go beyond canceling the Conoco deal and develop a comprehensive strategy to squeeze Iran.

Ben-Porat rejects 'tendentious' Channel 1 portrait of her

EVELYN GORDON

CHANNEL One's *Mabat Sheni* yesterday blasted State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat in a program she called "tendentious."

The hour-long program by Michael Karpin focused primarily on Ben-Porat's role as the country's ombudsman, and contained numerous interviews with people whose complaints she rejected. Not one person satisfied with her response was interviewed, a major factor in Ben-Porat's claim of tendentiousness.

Most of the cases involved people who claimed they were fired for exposing corruption. Perhaps the most serious involved two men fired by the Energy Ministry for opposing construction of windmills on the Golan. Dr. Moshe Hirsch and Yisrael Harag, Avraham Melamed, the entre-

preneur who received \$1.5 million from the ministry to build the windmills several years ago, was arrested last month on suspicion of fraud. The windmills were never built. However, Ben-Porat failed to uphold the complaints by Hirsch and Harag.

The program also charged that Ben-Porat was guilty of many things she attacked in her reports, such as hiring ministry employees without a tender, or employing people over age 65.

Karpin said that in her report on the Shabal-Terner affair, the High Court overturned her findings regarding director-general of the Prime Minister's Office Shimon Sheves. In fact, the court sided with Ben-Porat in opposing a criminal investigation of Sheves.

The program's "profile" of Ben-Porat virtually ignored her achievements, concentrating instead on items such as her purchase of a NIS 3,000 dress - at her office's expense but with the approval of its legal adviser - to

attend a lunch with Hillary Clinton.

A lengthy section also implied Ben-Porat was responsible for many of her recommendations being repeatedly ignored. The program failed to mention she has no powers of enforcement, and can only make recommendations.

Ben-Porat declined to appear on the program. In a written response, however, she said Karpin's objectivity was suspect because he was once reprimanded due to her investigation of a complaint against him alleging he had given air time to an organization in exchange for the group flying him to the US.

In a letter to the IBA, however, the comptroller said her main reason for refusing to appear was that giving a forum to those whose complaints were rejected might unfairly besmirch the subjects of those complaints. "This is enough ... to produce the conclusion that this is an unfair and unbalanced program, which it would be better not to participate in," she wrote.

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Rabin: South American city is center for Islamic terror

A SOUTH American city has become a center for Islamic terror activities, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

"The struggle against Islamic extremists obliges us to pursue intelligence activities in areas where we never thought we'd have to operate in the past," he reportedly said. "We're exposing places around the world, like in South America where we have discovered an extremist Shi'ite city, with mosques and markets and 250,000 inhabitants, where [terror] activities are planned."

"If there is opposition to peace today and if [people] are looking for the threat to Israel's security, I wouldn't point at the Syrians but at Islamic extremism. If you have to define the true threat, not in the short term of a week or year but [in the long term], it is the wave of Islamic radicalism," Rabin said.

LIAT COLLINS

He said it was not just an Israeli problem, but a problem for all countries in the region. As an example he cited Turkey, where he said extremists had begun to attack moderate Moslems.

Rabin said the Turkish prime minister had asked him to tell the Western world of how her country was fighting the spread of Islamic fundamentalism.

"Of all the state leaders in the Western world, only [Britain's] John Major has shown the understanding and willingness to speak out clearly on the subject," Rabin said.

The prime minister said that US isolationist tendencies and the desire to stop foreign aid might help strengthen this fundamentalist "wave." "The US and Europe must understand that without economic aid, the face of the Middle East will change because the Islamic wave is

built on poverty," he said.

Rabin also hinted at the threat of mounting anti-Israel feeling in the Arab world. "In certain circles in the Arab world, there is a growing fear about Israeli development and openness. Instead of seeing the attempt to build a new Middle East as something positive, they see it, unfortunately, as an Israeli trick for neo-colonialist, Zionist and economic control," he said.

"Maybe the Casablanca (economic) conference frustrated peace efforts?" asked Likud MK Eliahu Ben-Elissar, leading Rabin to admit: "The Casablanca conference did slow down the development process in the area."

In response to a question, Rabin said that in Jenin and Ramallah, unarmed Palestinian inspectors worked under municipal auspices. He also said car thefts had dropped 70 percent because of the closure of the territories.

NEWS IN BRIEF

One killed, 16 hurt in road accidents

Driver Hashem Mahmoud, 60, of Kalkilya was killed and six passengers were injured, two of them seriously, when a truck exiting the settlement of Kochav Ya'ir yesterday morning failed to yield the right of way and collided with their taxi. The truck driver's license was immediately suspended for 90 days.

In Gush Etzion last night, 10 persons were injured in a chain collision on the Jerusalem-Hebron road opposite Neveh Daniel. Seven Palestinian vehicles and one Israeli car were involved in the pileup.

Itim

'Post' returns to Egypt

The Jerusalem Post has gone back on sale in Egypt, a month after it was banned by the Egyptian authorities.

No official reason was ever given for the Post's banning.

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, seven of hearts, queen of diamonds, and seven of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 5, 8, 13, 20, 28, and 48 and the additional number was 44.

Strike marks Litani Operation

DAVID RUDGE

FIGHTING continued in south Lebanon yesterday as a general strike was staged throughout the country on the 17th anniversary of the Litani Operation.

The strike and special sessions of the Lebanese parliament in Beirut and the cabinet in Nabatiya township in the south were aimed at pressing Israel to withdraw from the security zone.

Shops, schools, factories and businesses, as well as public and state institutions throughout the country were closed, including those in Christian areas, as the population observed the strike call.

There was also a three-minute silence at midday which reportedly brought all traffic to a halt in Beirut, something which the heaviest civil war bombardments failed to do.

Reports said thousands of people, including many youngsters, distributed stickers, yellow ribbons and leaflets all with the numbers 425 on them — a reference to the UN Security Council resolution calling for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

The unprecedented cabinet meeting in Nabatiya was designed to show solidarity with residents of the south. Reports from Lebanon said that a short time before the meeting, IAF warplanes staged a series of low altitude flights over many parts of the south, including Nabatiya itself.

The reports said Lebanese army anti-aircraft gunners, as well as Hizbullah activists, fired at the planes but missed.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said after the meeting his government fully backed Hizbullah's right to fight Israeli forces in south Lebanon and would never agree to curb them.

"Lebanon will under no circumstances accept Israeli demands to disarm the resistance," Hariri said. "The cabinet stresses the right of Lebanese to resist Israeli occupation."

Hizbullah was believed to be responsible for heavy early afternoon shooting at South Lebanese Army positions in the Almatn and Shomriya region, in the zone's central sector. There were no casualties and SLA and IDF gunners returned fire.

Reports from Lebanon said an IAF helicopter gunship fired a number of rockets at a Hizbullah base in the Iqfita al-Toufah region, although there were no reports of casualties.

Later yesterday afternoon, an SLA post in the Bim J'bal region, in the zone's western sector, came under mortar and machine gun fire. There were no casualties in that incident either, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

He did not announce a starting date, but said it would be "in the

Saudis send aid signal to Syria

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SAUDI Arabia has signaled that it may give aid to Syria if Damascus reaches a peace accord with Israel, a senior US official said during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's trip to Damascus this week.

According to the official, the US encouraged Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Faisal to visit Damascus shortly before Christopher made his trip to the region to illustrate that Riyadh would back Syria — politically and economically — in any peace deal with Israel.

"When Saud Faisal arrived on a rare visit to Damascus, he did not — nor does he have to — say 'If you make peace with Israel, we will give you this set amount of money.' Rather, it is sufficient for him to say, 'We support the direction of making peace with Israel.' The Syrians get the message. This is what the Saudi foreign minister did," the official said.

During a meeting in Jeddah this week, the Saudis and five other Gulf states endorsed Christopher's efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, particularly between Israel and Syria.

In a meeting between Fahd and Christopher this week, a US official said the Saudi monarch expressed his belief that Syria wants peace with Israel.

Saudi Arabia contributed more than \$2 billion to Syria when it joined the allied coalition against Iraq on the eve of the Gulf War. Currently, Riyadh provides \$100 million in project assistance to the Palestinian Authority, but Christopher appealed to King Fahd this week to reappropriate the donation enabling the Palestinian to use a chunk of the funds for recurrent costs and not just projects.

The timing of Faisal's visit to Damascus was also important, since there have been reports that Syria is concerned that Republican control of the US Congress — with their vaunted desire to cut the budget — would mean a diminished US capacity to provide aid to Damascus in the aftermath of peace with Israel.

It should be noted that a key reason why Christopher has waited for three months to make this trip to the region is because he wanted to devote time to meet with members of the new Congress, especially key Republicans, in a bid to ensure that US commitments abroad are maintained.

(David Makovsky was able to travel to Saudi Arabia this week as a result of intervention by senior Clinton administration officials.)

Likud will call for early elections

LIAT COLLINS

THE Likud will next week call for early elections and the dissolution of the Knesset, party leader Benjamin Netanyahu announced yesterday.

Netanyahu was addressing an emergency meeting by the heads of the opposition factions and Golan Heights residents following statements by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres about the Golan Heights.

The opposition and Golan Heights residents will launch a massive public awareness campaign to thwart the government's plans for withdrawal, Netanyahu said.

"All the talk about security arrangements on the Golan Heights are an illusion. The Golan Heights themselves provide security on the Golan," Netanyahu said. "Peres said that Israel is threatened by 1,000 missiles and that the Golan is not a shield against these missiles. This means that the Golan is not needed by Israel for security reasons, and therefore can be given away. The government is signaling that it intends giving away all the Golan Heights," [Syrian President Hafez] Assad knows this.

"The government has no mandate for this policy. And Rabin has no mandate to conduct negotiations on withdrawing from the Golan. The government's policy is not supported by the majority of the people."

"If Rabin had asked in his election campaign for a mandate to negotiate on the Golan, he wouldn't have received it. The opposition is therefore demanding that Rabin return to the electorate," Netanyahu said. "[Rabin's] belief that giving away the Golan will bring him electoral victory is unfounded."



Norma Major visits with pupils at an UNRWA school in the Dehaishe refugee camp south of Bethlehem yesterday. She pledged \$20,000 pounds for a library. Major was accompanied by an unnamed British official after declining Israel's offer of military protection. She also visited Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, accompanied by Mayor Elias Freij. (Khaled Zighari)

MAJOR

(Continued from Page 1)
part of the \$2.4 billion international aid package has been held up due to difficulties concerning Palestinian accountability. Some British aid has been distributed through UNRWA.

Arafat attacked the closure as the single most important cause of Gaza's present economic stagnation.

At a press conference later at the Palestine Hotel, Arafat said the closure had been in operation more or less for 10 months, during which no workers at all went to Israel. "We lose \$4 million a day from the closure, so in 164 days we lose more than one year of donations from abroad."

However, Arafat appeared to

be basing his assessment on the money brought into Gaza when 100,000 workers were allowed into Israel before the Gulf War.

Major canceled the Shati visit after Mubarak Rawaj, 10, was shot in the head by a member of Arafat's Force 17 bodyguard which was manning roadblocks during Major's visit. An eyewitness said some boys had taunted the police after they were told to leave the area. One policeman apparently said he would open fire if they did not leave. Rawaj said go ahead and the policeman shot him in the head, apparently by accident, thinking the safety catch was on.

TALKS

(Continued from Page 1)
comprehensive security arrangements and their definition. There is a dialogue on this subject today. In the Syrians' position, I suppose, that [President Hafez] Assad would be willing to pay the price the Egyptians paid for peace; that is, embassies and open borders."

He reminded the committee that the negotiations had been broken off by Syria. "I am not prepared to accept the Syrians turning the procedural issue of resuming the talks into a demand for concrete concessions by us," Rabin said.

The talks will be in Washington, where Syria broke them off in December. A senior US official confirmed Israel made no concessions to get them reopened.

At the outset, Ambassadors Itamar Rabinovich of Israel and Walid Moualem of Syria will handle the negotiations. They will be joined by military technicians and then the chiefs of staff, Christopher said.

He did not announce a starting date, but said it would be "in the

next couple of days." Christopher said the US is playing an active role and that his senior aide, Dennis Ross, will return to the Middle East in about two weeks for parallel discussions with Israeli and Syrian officials.

The format for the next negotiating round differs mostly in the expanded US participation. Ross will participate in the discussions and "make suggestions," a senior US official said.

Additionally, Israel, Syria, and the US will form a committee to oversee the negotiations, another US official said.

Christopher said last-minute delays in announcing the arrangements were due to the difficulty of the issues and the fact that Rabin was also busy with the Knesset and with visiting British Prime Minister John Major.

However a senior official in the Prime Minister's office said the delay in the announcement from Damascus last night derived from Syrian hesitations.

A barrage of last minute consultations between the US peace team headed by Ross in Damascus and the Prime Minister's office ensued via the US embassy in Tel Aviv, the official said.

Golan Heights residents to intensify campaign

DAVID RUDGE

THE Golan Heights Residents Committee has drawn up action plans aimed at intensifying the campaign to keep the region under Israeli rule, in the event of a breakthrough in the US-brokered talks between Israel and Syria.

Committee members held an emergency session in Katzin yesterday to coordinate the program and later some of them traveled to the Knesset to meet with opposition leaders.

No details of the action campaign were released to the press in order to maintain the element of surprise, although it was clear that the program would be designed to build on what they described as the public consensus against withdrawal.

Committee leaders stressed that development of the region and boosting settlement would continue at full pace. They also noted that this year the government intended to spend around NIS 100 million on developing and improving roads, tourist sites and infrastructure — about the same amount as last year. A ceremony should have been

held in Katzin yesterday to officially open the new central post office in the town. The event was postponed, however, when Postal Authority director-general Ran Levine accused local residents of turning it into a political act.

A press statement was issued by Katzin local council head Sammy Bar-Lev on Monday highlighting the recent inauguration of a new \$1.5 million factory on the nearby industrial zone and the new post office.

Bar-Lev said development of new industry and expansion of services to the public were the best answer to US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's efforts to get the deadlocked Israel-Syria peace talks back on track.

Levine and authority officials saw the press release when they arrived at Katzin for the inauguration and promptly deferred the ceremony and left.

Bar-Lev called on Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni to force Levine to apologize.

The Officers, Trustees and Staff of the
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mourn the passing of our colleague and friend
Professor JONAS C. GREENFIELD
and express our deepest sympathy
to Bella and her family.

Yeshiva University
Faculty, Administration, Students and Alumni
mourn the loss of
Rabbi Dr. LOUIS BERNSTEIN
educator and leader in Zionist causes.
May his family be consoled amongst
the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

CORRECTION
The picture on Page 12 of yesterday's paper of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was photographed by Israel Sun.

With great sorrow we announce the death of our beloved husband and father
URI LIEBER
who passed away in New York
The funeral will take place Thursday, March 16 at 11:00 a.m. at the Herzliya cemetery.
Shiva at 14 Oppenheimer St., Ramat Aviv - Ziv
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Children: David, Oren and Danna

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March 15, 1995 The Jerusalem Post

Likud will call for early election

an Heights residents intensify campaign

THE EAST EXPRESS DA TOURS

Knesset panel adopts proposed 30% pay hike for MKs

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset House Committee yesterday adopted the Rosen-Zvi Report under which Knesset members would receive a wage rise of some 30 percent and be barred from holding other paid positions.

The bill on the matter, sponsored by MKs Ra'anan Cohen (Labor) and Meir Sheerit (Likud), still has a long way to go before becoming law and even then, MKs would be given a six-month grace period before being forced to choose between their parliamentary and private work. Mayors Ehud Olmert, Shlomo Bibbut, Fani Badash and Ron Nahman, and Histadrut officials Haim Ramon, Haim Oron and Amir Peretz need not worry about giving up their positions yet, if at all.

MK Eli Dayan (Labor) said: "An MK cannot be a lawyer, accountant,

adviser, director or mayor. He should not have any other job."

Prof. Ariel Rosen-Zvi, chairman of the committee which wrote the report, said he felt it reflected the wishes of both the MKs and the public.

Sheerit called it "a revolution."

"I'd like to see who votes against it," he said. "If I was the Knesset Speaker it would not take more than two weeks to get the bill passed. It doesn't need longer. The issues are perfectly clear."

Ariel Mayor Ron Nahman, however, warned Sheerit that it would take a lot longer than that. "It's not fair, and I don't see myself resigning within a year. And if I am forced to choose between the two, I will leave the Knesset."

'Al Hamishmar' gets reprieve

HELEN KAYE

THE 52-year-old Mapam daily *Al Hamishmar* yesterday got a stay of execution when its closure was deferred pending the examination of fresh options designed to keep the paper in print.

The decision was announced following yesterday's meeting of the paper's board of governors, which will reconvene next week for further discussions.

The Kibbutz Artzi movement is the paper's major owner and on Sunday Kibbutz Artzi secretary Giora Furman announced that the paper would close, after negotiations between *Al Hamishmar* and local businessman Yitzhak Tshuva on buying the paper collapsed.

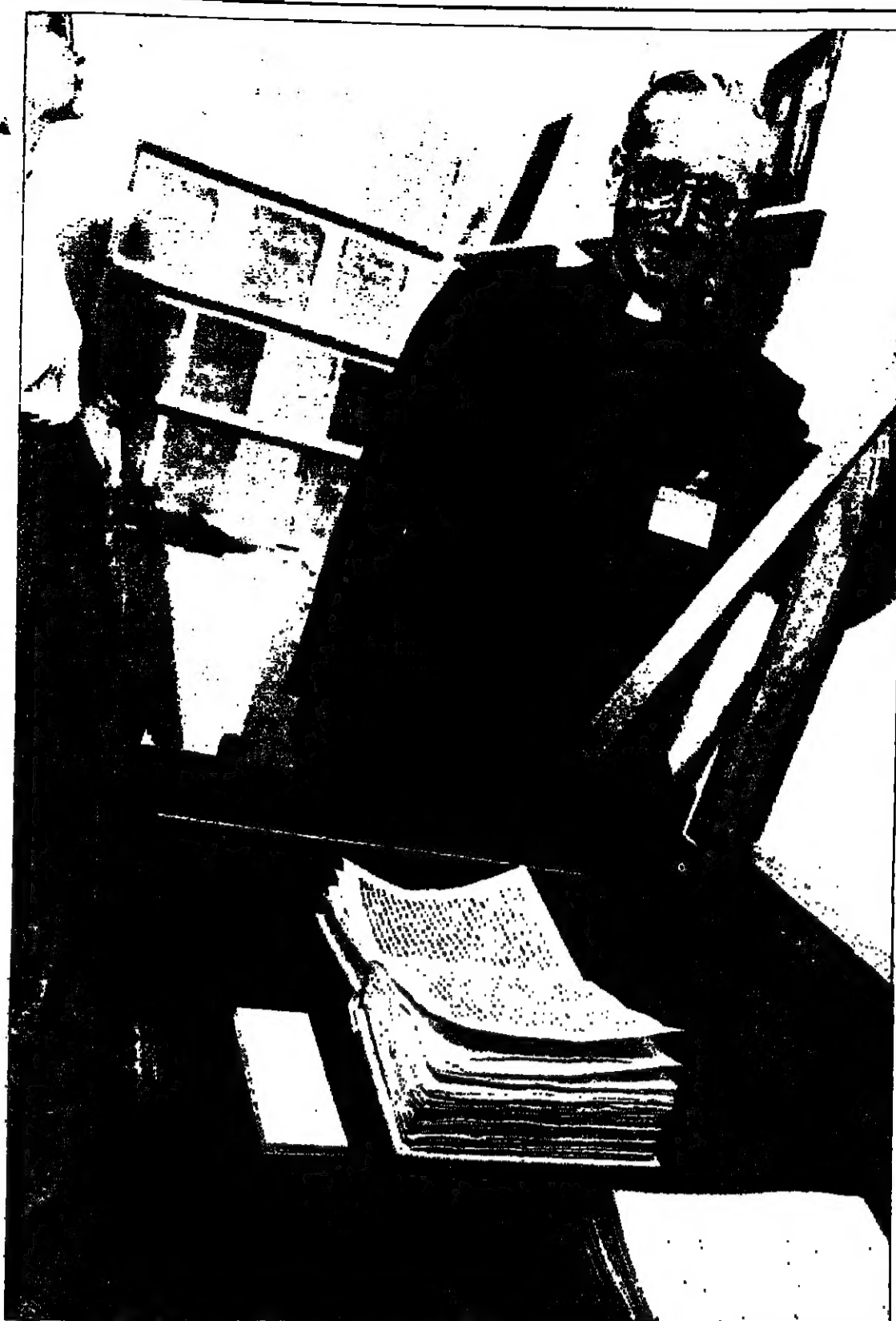
Kibbutz Artzi, Furman had said more than three months ago, was bankrupt and could not afford to hold on to *Al Hamishmar*, but although it was widely reported that the paper would shut down today, Furman insisted that he had never set a date.

Al Hamishmar managing editor Dorit Gefen believes that the paper's reprieve was influenced by pressure from Histadrut treasurer MK Haim Oron who had appealed to the Kibbutz Artzi secretariat to keep the paper going at least until the arrival next week of French industrialist Jean Friedman.

The French industrialist is negotiating to buy the Histadrut's own paper, *Davar*. It is possible that he will be approached to purchase *Al Hamishmar* and merge it with *Davar*.

The paper's editors and representatives of the National Federation of Israel Journalists say closing the paper would contribute to the homogenization of the Israeli press and threaten free and democratic expression in an increasingly strident press.

Some 40 permanent staff and between 100-150 freelancers stand to lose their jobs if the paper goes under.



Monsignor Paul Canar with the 'Sifra,' copied in eighth-century Babylonia. (Rafi Magnes)

Vatican displays oldest known Hebrew book at fair

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE oldest Hebrew book in the world is presently on display at the Jerusalem International Book Fair, thanks to what has been described as an outstanding gesture on the part of the Vatican towards Israel.

The volume, a manuscript of the *Sifra*, copied in eighth-century Babylonia, is part of the Vatican Library's display at the fair. Monsignor Paul Canar, vice-prefect of the Vatican Library who accompanied the books to Jerusalem, said the books, which form the first exhibit of the Vatican Library in Israel, were sent to establish a cultural link with Israel.

"We are exhibiting 12 of the most precious manuscripts that we have," he said. He said it was impossible to set a monetary value on the volumes.

Yisrael Shatzman, director of the Hebrew University and Jewish Na-

tional Library, said this volume of the *Sifra*, a halachic midrash on Leviticus, was the oldest known Hebrew manuscript other than the Dead Sea Scrolls. It is also the oldest known Hebrew work in the form of a codex, or bound volume, rather than a scroll.

Shatzman added that usually a display of this importance would be part of general exhibition organized by the local institution. In this case, he said, it was the Vatican Library which took the initiative.

He said he could not accept accusations by some Jewish figures that the Vatican's Judaic collection was stolen from Jewish communities and thus should be returned.

"The books were acquired hundreds of years ago and they were not

stolen," Shatzman said, adding that for many years the Vatican Library has cooperated fully with the Hebrew University Library and that the entire Vatican Hebrew collection is recorded in the Jerusalem library's Institute for Microfilming Hebrew Manuscripts.

Canar said the major part of the Vatican's Hebrew collection was acquired in the second half of the 15th century, when the interest in Hebrew was revived by humanists. Much of the collection was bought from Jews in Italy, he said, and some were gifts of Jews who converted to Christianity.

In addition to the *Sifra*, the exhibit includes an 11th-century *Bereshit Rabba*, a 13th-century copy of Rashi, and a number of illuminated manuscripts, including an ornate 14th-century *Mahzor*. The book fair continues through Friday.

Hormone found to fight the flu

JUDY SIEGEL

JERUSALEM researchers have found that a natural hormone synthesized by the French and dubbed the "fountain of youth" increases the effectiveness of ordinary anti-flu vaccine.

French Prof. Etienne-Emil Baulieu claims that the hormone, which has been known for years, "makes people younger."

Prof. Gideon Friedman, Dr. Arye Ben-Yehuda and Dr. Haim Danenberg of Hadassah-University Hospital gave D.H.A.E. to elderly mice to see if it would bolster their immune system and protect against infection. The researchers were "surprised" that the elderly mice were harder than others and suffered no side effects.

Dan Shomron to head Channel 2 council

HELEN KAYE

FORMER chief of staff Lt.-Gen. (res.) Dan Shomron will apparently replace Maj.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Peled as head of the Second Channel Council.

Although the appointment is not yet official, Economics Minister Shimon Shetret, responsible for the Second Television and Radio Authority, yesterday confirmed that he had personally informed Peled that his contract would not be re-

newed when his term expires at the end of the month.

Tel-Ad managing director Uzi Peled praised Peled's involvement in council affairs, adding that he was very well informed on the issues, especially those concerning private broadcasting. It is the minister's prerogative to appoint the chairman "but Peled should continue in his post because the testing period for the second channel isn't over yet."

House panel debates the patient's right 'to die with dignity'

LIAT COLLINS and JUDY SIEGEL

A LAW on euthanasia would ensure that people could die with dignity. This claim was raised at a discussion on patients' rights held by the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday.

The committee was discussing the patients' rights bill, a proposed law comprising five private members' bills, which has passed first reading in the last Knesset.

"We're not talking about active euthanasia, but about not prolonging lives in clear and defined cases," said Tamar Eshel of the Right to Die with Dignity Association.

"The recent suicides by elderly people means we cannot close our eyes. We must make an arrangement for terminally ill patients to die with

dignity, in a humane and civilized way," said MK Ran Cohen (Meretz).

"It is about time that patients' rights were upheld," said Dr. Mordechai Halperin, the Chief Rabbi's representative. "Halachic rulings also state that there are conditions under which the suffering of a terminally ill patient should not be prolonged...Halacha differentiates between active and passive euthanasia and the emphasis must be on examining each case separately and in depth."

"Passive euthanasia is allowed; active euthanasia is forbidden," said Deputy Attorney-General Nahum

Rackover on behalf of the Justice Ministry.

Yitzhak Cheshin, a lawyer for the Right to Die With Dignity Association, said the proposed law reflects the current legal situation. "Even today a patient can refuse treatment. We're talking on behalf of patients who can no longer express themselves."

"Respecting a person's wishes is an ethical principle that cannot be denied, and this should be the determining factor," said Haifa University Prof. Ze'ev Levy.

"The right to die with dignity should not be tied with euthanasia or aided suicide," committee chairman

Yossi Katz said. "I'm determined to reach an understanding and compromise between different sections of the population regarding the right of a fatally ill patient to die with dignity, and bring the bill to its second and third reading."

Representatives of the Israel Medical Association claimed that the bill in its current wording would allow and even require doctors to perform euthanasia.

According to Paragraph 10 of the bill, "A terminally ill patient has the

right to die with dignity according to the principles of his world view and beliefs, and as much as possible, in the presence of the individual he wishes. The doctor and the institution will help him carry out his right and prevent anything liable to impair his dignity."

The IMA claims this wording would allow active mercy killing and violates decisions of the World Medical Association, which declare that a doctor must do all he or she can to ease a patient's suffering, but bars the physician from actively causing his death, the IMA said.

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Ronald A. Thiemann, Dean - Divinity School, Harvard University

David Hartman, Director - Shalom Hartman Institute

Moderator: Tzvi Marx, Shalom Hartman Institute

Wednesday, March 15, 1995 - 20:00

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TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research

International Conference on:

The Resolution of Intractable Conflicts: The Israeli-Palestinian and South African Experiences

Sunday, March 19

1:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.: Introduction
Afternoon: (a) Intractable Conflicts
2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.: The Definition of Intractable Conflicts
Chairperson: Ephraim Yaar
Speakers: Louis Kriesberg, Zeev Maoz

4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.: The Nature of the Israeli-Palestinian and South African Conflicts
Chairperson: Arie Nadler
Speakers: Shimon Shamir, Mordechai Tamarkin

Monday, March 20

Morning: (b) Getting to the Table
9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: What Brought the Palestinian-Israeli and the South African Parties to the Table?
Chairperson: Ilai Alon
Speakers: Kamel Mansour, Ron Pundik, Hermann Gilloine

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Comparative and Conceptual Analysis
Chairperson: Abraham Ben Zvi
Speakers: Yacov Vertzberger, Janice Stein

Afternoon: (c) Negotiations
2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.: Negotiating the Oslo and the South African Agreements
Chairperson: Mordechai Tamarkin
Speakers: Jacques Neriya, Ziad Abu Zayyad, Johannes Ranteto

4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.: Comparative and Conceptual Analysis
Chairperson: Nathan Lerner
Speakers: Scott Brown, Mordechai Meroni

Tuesday, March 21

Morning: (d) Implementation
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.: Problems of Implementation in the West Bank-Gaza and in South Africa
Chairperson: Asher Susser
Speakers: Ghassan al-Khateeb, Gad Zohar, Terje Larsen, Ephraim Yaar and Tamar Hermann, David Welsh

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: Comparative and Conceptual Analysis
Chairperson: Eli Rakhess
Speakers: Alon Liel, Leon Shalef, Mark Heller

Afternoon: (e) Conclusions
2:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.: Round Table - Lessons for Conflict Resolution in Today's World
Chairperson: Zeev Maoz
Participants: Alan Dowty, Samuel Lewis, M.P. Medina, Gabriel Bendor, Shlomo Ben-Ami

The conference will be held at the Marcelle Gordon University Club (the Green House), 24 Bnei Israel St., Ramat Aviv

- The public is invited -

Dudayev threatens Chechen suicide attacks in Russia

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev threatened, in an interview published yesterday, to unleash kamikaze attacks on Russian cities to back his region's struggle for independence.

The threat, reported by the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper, brought an immediate put-down from the Russian Interior Ministry.

"Dudayev is bluffing again," a ministry official said by telephone. "We all remember how often he has promised to blow up Moscow since military action in Chechnya started."

"If terrorists strike, they have surprise on their side, but our services will neutralize them as soon as anything happens."

Dudayev had threatened several times previously to retaliate for Moscow's military interven-

tion in his breakaway Caucasus region with attacks in Russia and he has warned that civilians could die in any such assault.

This time he told *Komsomolskaya Pravda*: "Kamikaze units are being formed... from those who are ready to die to avenge their fathers and children killed in bombing raids."

"When they squeeze into Russian cities, many innocent people may suffer," said Dudayev, who is leading the fight against Russian troops and tanks sent to the region on December 11.

The newspaper said the interview took place in a Chechen village.

Dudayev said Chechen fighters had the addresses of those responsible for killing civilians in the rebel Caucasus region, which declared itself independent in 1991.

Moscow's troops seized control of the Chechen capital Grozny after weeks of bloody fighting, flattening much of the city in the process. They are now hunting rebel groups in the countryside.

Dudayev described the fighting in Chechnya as genocide rather than war.

"In the Soviet army there was always an understanding about honesty and conscience, about protecting civilian populations," he said.

"Things are completely different today. Killing has become heroism, marauding has become courage. And they give medals for that."

Russia has stepped up security in its cities and around factories and strategic institutions to cope with Dudayev's threats. The Interior Ministry official said there would be no let up in vigilance.

Algerian extremists kill three more women

ALGIERS (AP) - Islamic extremists yesterday killed three more women, the latest victims of a campaign aimed at pressuring authorities to free their family sympathizers from jail, security forces said.

Security forces said armed men broke into the home of Halima Toumi, 29, in Reghaia, just east of the capital, killing her and Hafida Bouguerra, 25. Armed men killed another woman, identified only as Zineb, 39, and her husband in their home in Reghaia.

Scores of women have been killed since the start of an Islamic insurgency three years ago that has left an estimated 30,000 people dead. But women have only recently been clearly identified as targets, along with journalists, intellectuals, police and foreigners.

Algerian newspapers and television showed gruesome pictures of the body of a 15-year-old schoolgirl killed Monday after being dragged

from her class in a village south of the capital. Fatima Ghodbane's six killers slashed her throat, cut her face and inscribed on her hand the initials of the Armed Islamic Group, according to the press.

The group set a deadline for the release of jailed female sympathizers that expired last Friday. It vowed to attack wives and daughters of police and army officers as retribution.

In other violence, a newspaper reported that the head of the Algerian Football Federation, Larbi Brik, was slightly injured Saturday in an attack as he gunned his car to escape a road-block manned by extremists. They fired as he tried to escape, according to the daily newspaper *L'Authentique*.

Brik's predecessor in the football federation, Rachid Harraque, was assassinated January 21 in Algiers. Authorities blamed Islamic extremists for the killing.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry denied a British newspaper report that a law setting up self-defense groups was being promulgated. The *Independent* quoted Interior Minister Abdelhakme Meziane-Cherif as saying in an interview that the law would answer growing demands by citizens for weapons.

The military-backed government has been unable to put down the insurgency that grew out of an army decision to cancel 1992 parliamentary elections to thwart a victory by Moslem fundamentalists.

In France, authorities arrested seven people suspected of ties to the Armed Islamic Group, police sources said yesterday. The arrests were linked to the arrest in Barcelona on Saturday of an activist of the group, who was allegedly transporting weapons.

Further information on the Paris arrests was not immediately available.

France criticized for welcome of Castro

PARIS (AP) - Savoring his first trip to Paris, Cuban President Fidel Castro admired the Mona Lisa and Napoleon's tomb yesterday. But the warm official welcome for him drew criticism - one presidential candidate called it a scandal.

"I'm ashamed for France," said Philippe de Villiers, a staunch conservative ranking fifth in the presidential polls. "It's scandalous that France welcome as a hero one of the last socialist dictators."

Castro, through technical on a private visit, was greeted with a trumpet-and-drum fanfare as he arrived Monday for luncheon with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand at the presidential palace. He was later received at the National Assembly by the speaker, conservative Philippe Seguin, then had dinner at the home of the former French Communist Party leader, Georges Marchais.

His sightseeing yesterday included a visit to the Louvre. Castro lingered at some of the most famous works in the palace-turned-museum, including the Mona Lisa, Venus de Milo and Winged Victory.

"He was curious and very friendly," said Jean Galard, the Louvre official who served as guide. "He showed more interest in the works and the artists than the building and its history."



Cuban President Fidel Castro points to the 'Mona Lisa' on his visit to the Louvre yesterday, as former French culture minister Jack Lang looks on. (AP)

Castro was to confer later with French business executives, then host a dinner at the Cuban Embassy.

The visit - Castro's first as guest of one of the major Western powers - became grist for skirmishing in the French presidential campaign. Two rounds of voting, on April 23 and May 7,

will determine who succeeds Mitterrand, stepping down after 14 years in power.

Premier Edouard Balladur, one of the two leading conservative candidates, has decided not to receive Castro at his office.

Castro, who switched into a dark blue suit for his social engagements Monday, was back in

his customary olive-green military uniform yesterday for his visit to Napoleon's tomb. He spent a half-hour there, accompanied by an aide equipped with the Michelin tourist guide to Paris.

It is only Castro's third visit to Western Europe since his revolutionaries won power in Cuba. He visited Spain in 1984 and 1992.

Iraqi general tried to overthrow Saddam

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

RETIRED Iraqi Major-General Wafiq Samarrahi sought unsuccessfully to overthrow Saddam Hussein earlier this month, *The New York Times* quoted American intelligence reports as saying.

Samarrahi, who was Iraq's head of military intelligence during the Gulf War, might have fled to Syria in recent days, the reports said.

They said Samarrahi tried to organize the coup with the backing of Kurds in northern Iraq and Shi'ites in the south, which led the administration to take the news seriously.

The *Times* said Secretary of State Warren Christopher briefed Saudi Arabia's King Fahd at length on the coup attempt during their meeting Sunday in Jeddah.

The coup failed in part because of divisions within the Kurdish forces, and in part because it became known in advance.

The CIA also knew about the plans, the *Times* said.

Canada: Spanish trawlers continue to fish illegally

BRUSSELS (AP) - Canada stood fast yesterday in its dispute with the European Union, refusing to release a seized Spanish trawler and accusing the ship's crew of gross violations of fishing regulations.

Jacques Roy, Canada's ambassador to the EU, said breaches of fish conservation rules found by Canadian authorities when they unloaded the trawler's catch were "far worse than we could imagine in our worst nightmare."

But the EU threatened new sanctions against Canada unless it releases the trawler.

EU fisheries Commissioner Emma Bonino maintained that the seizure of the Spanish vessel *Estal* on Thursday, after Canadian ships fired cannon shots across its bow, illustrated Canada's "reign of terror" on the high seas.

"We must restore international legality by returning the vessel, captain and crew so fishing can continue," said Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana.

"There cannot be any contact with Canadian authorities, no discussion whatsoever, until that is restored."

While the war of words escalated, EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan promised talks as early as this morning if the ship and crew were released.

If not, he said, the EU would consider more sanctions. The 15-nation union has already broken off official meetings and postponed signing research and education agreements with Canada.

"I very much hope that good sense will prevail," Brittan said.

Meanwhile, Spain planned to send a second warship to protect its fishing boats in international waters off the coast of Newfoundland. The first Spanish patrol boat sailed Friday toward a possible confrontation with Canadian ships.

The navy ships would have orders "to protect the 17 Spanish vessels [in the disputed area]... in every sense," said Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana.

WORLD BRIEFS

More civil unrest in Turkey

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkish riot police broke up a rally in the capital Ankara yesterday, freely using batons, water cannon and dogs to beat back crowds enraged after Istanbul riots in which at least 15 people died. Other smaller protests in several Istanbul districts and universities, and the western towns of Bursa, Izmit and Izmir were dispersed without violence, but Anatolian news agency reported at least 30 detained in Izmir.

The incidents followed two days of rioting in a district of Istanbul inhabited by members of the minority Alawite Moslem community, who oppose a recent upsurge in religious fundamentalism.

Turkish interests firebombed in Germany

BONN (AP) - Suspected Kurdish extremists threw firebombs at Turkish travel agencies and at Turkish meeting places in apparently coordinated attacks in at least four German cities, police said yesterday. The overnight violence came two weeks after Kurdish extremists firebombed Turkish businesses in several German cities. No one was hurt and one suspected firebomber was arrested.

Britain to pull 400 troops from Ulster

BELFAST (Reuters) - Britain said yesterday it was pulling 400 troops out of Northern Ireland in response to a six-month-old guerrilla cease-fire which has raised hopes of a permanent settlement to the 25-year conflict. Britain still has 18,000 troops based there.

NASA astronaut into orbit on Russian rocket

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan (AP) - For the first time since Cold War competition propelled the United States and the former Soviet Union into space, a Russian Soyuz rocket carried an American astronaut heavenward yesterday. NASA astronaut Norman Thagard blasted off from Central Asia in late morning, with Russians and a small American delegation cheering him on. Thagard and his two Russian colleagues will be the first space travelers to go up in one spaceship and come down in another.

No Bailey bombast in Fuhrman cross-examination

LOS ANGELES (AP) - It was the moment that F. Lee Bailey had been building up to all day in his cross-examination of Detective Mark Fuhrman.

"Did you wipe a glove in that Bronco?" Bailey asked in his booming voice, clearly implying that Fuhrman not only tried to frame O.J. Simpson by planting a glove on his estate the morning after the killings, but rubbed it inside Simpson's Bronco to add even more bloody, incriminating evidence.

Fuhrman didn't snap. He didn't get angry. He didn't lash back.

Instead, he cracked a grin and answered, "No."

The most critical witness to date in the famous football player's double murder trial kept it short and simple Monday, answering only what he had to and conceding very little.

Bailey, the legendary defense lawyer, appeared to be holding back, calmly and methodically stalking his prey, showing little of the bombast and bluster he unloaded on a far less important police witness, Sgt. David Rossi.

Fuhrman was due back on the witness stand later yesterday after a morning delay.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito cracked down once again on the defense yesterday for failing

to promptly turn over information to the prosecution.

This time, the judge's ruling pertains to notes and interview transcripts of the defense's expert witnesses.

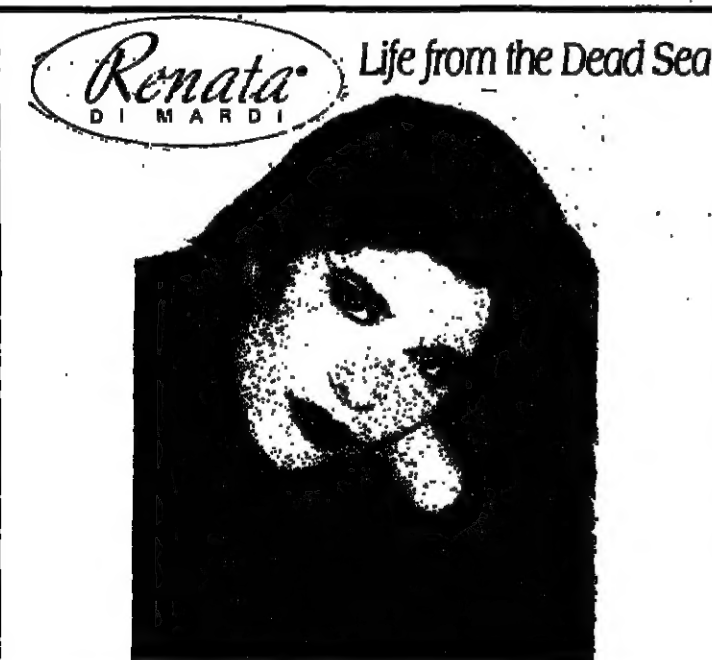
The prosecution complained the defense was illegally withholding information, but the defense argued it was still making up its mind on which witnesses to call and it was premature to turn over notes or reports.

Ito sided with the prosecution and warned the defense to abide by an order he issued January 29 to turn over the information. Warning that sanctions were possible, Ito gave Simpson's lawyers until today to comply.

The defense contends that Fuhrman is a racist who was motivated by hatred for blacks and a lust for personal glory to take one of two gloves found near the bodies and plant it inside Simpson's fence.

Bailey spent much time testing Fuhrman on his statement that he never met Kathleen Bell, a woman whose allegations form the heart of the defense's frame-up theory.

Bell contends that about 10 years ago, when she met Fuhrman at a Marine Corps recruiting station, he denounced interracial couples and said he would like to burn all "niggers."



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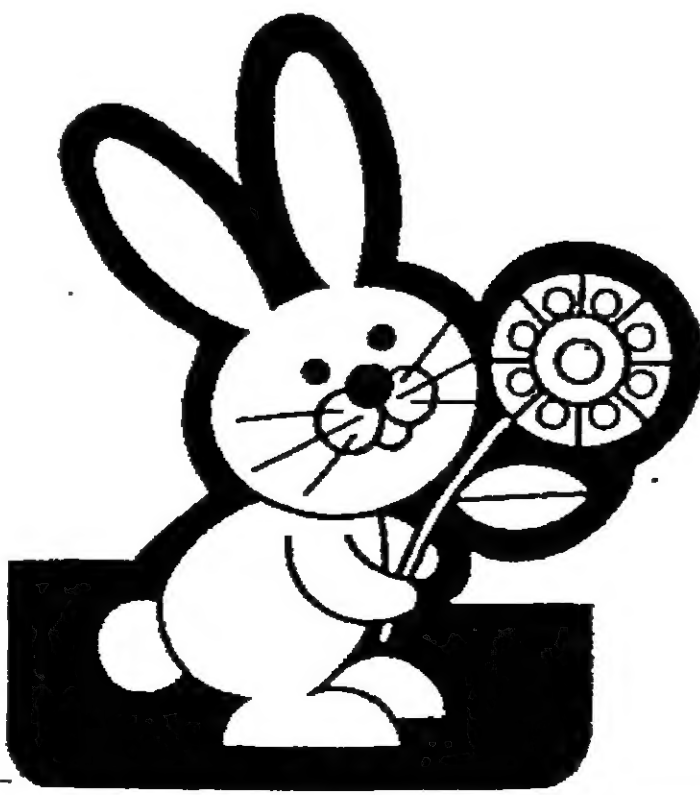
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מזמנים לראשון

King Hassan opens Washington's 'Middle East season'

KING Hassan of Morocco today opens the "Middle East season" in Washington.

Soon after Hassan leaves, Jordan's King Hussein will arrive for a routine checkup at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota and for political talks with President Clinton and congressional leaders.

On April 5, when Hussein is addressing a think tank in New York, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt will be meeting Clinton. It is believed that will be the first time two Arab heads of state are in Washington at the same time.

Prime Minister Rabin travels to America in May to see Clinton and to take part in events celebrating the 50th anniversary of

the establishment of the UN. Hassan will also be hosting a reception on March 23 in honor of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

He will also meet leaders of Moroccan Jewry from America and Canada.

The king has met all US presidents since Roosevelt - whom he encountered during the 1943 Casablanca Conference, when the child Hassan accompanied his father to meet Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin.

Because of Morocco's strategic importance astride the Straits of Gibraltar, Hassan has always enjoyed special status in Washington.

Among issues which have made him a valuable interlocutor there were his courage in 1961 in granting Moroccan Jews freedom of movement and emigration; his covert and later overt relations with Israel; his moderating voice in the Arab-Israeli conflict; his original standpoint on the Algerian crisis, which runs counter to France's position and closer to America's; his ideas on containing Islamic fundamentalism; and his position on the UN plan for the future of the Western Sahara. Furthermore, various Arab leaders have asked the king to

SHMUEL SEGIEV
NEW YORK

speak on their behalf at the White House. Iraq's Saddam Hussein, for example, sent his foreign minister to Rabat to urge Hassan to try and soften Clinton's stance on sanctions against Iraq.

Hassan is known to oppose Kuwait's view that the sanctions should remain in full force until Saddam is overthrown. Clinton, however, is known to favor a tough policy.

Yasser Arafat also traveled to Rabat to ask the king to seek firmer US support for Palestinian aspirations. Hassan played a

more important part than is generally known in moderating the PLO in the "Oslo channel" and is known still to be urging Arafat to be more patient.

As chairman of the Jerusalem committee of the Islamic Conference Organization, Hassan will almost certainly raise, as he has in the past, the issue of eastern Jerusalem.

He is known to espouse a more moderate position on the city.

In meetings with the pope and with various Israeli leaders, he has acknowledged that Jerusalem cannot revert to a pre-1967 status

and that it should remain undivided with the rights of all religious groups upheld.

The Islamic Conference states and an Arab League meeting have called for eastern Jerusalem to be the capital of a future Palestinian state; Jewish observers in America, as well as Israelis, will be watching closely to see if the king presents any new position in his talks with Clinton.

Many of Hassan's Washington discussions will focus on economic problems and on attracting new American investments.

Morocco has recently sped up the pace of privatization and introduced many new economic reforms compatible with a market economy.

In his diplomatic dispatches, US Ambassador Mark Ginzburg in Rabat has recommended more Moroccan investment to make Morocco a "regional center" and a focal point for cooperation between the US and North Africa.

The administration is likely to raise with the king the issue of human rights and political reform, but is pleased in general with increased democratization in the political system and a State Department report noted some progress on human rights.

Nevertheless, Washington believes more must be done if Morocco is to lay the ghost of the Islamic fundamentalism that is tearing its neighbor Algeria apart.

Christopher to help PA get pledged aid

LAMIA LAHOUD

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher this week promised the Palestinian Authority he would urge donor states to deliver on their financial pledges, according to a senior Palestinian official.

The money is needed to pay the salaries of 22,000 PA employees by the end of March and will be forthcoming from the World Bank's Holst Fund, once the pledges are made good, says Ahmed Qreia, the PA's minister for economy and trade. Extended donor aid is also needed to pay the Palestinian Police.

The Holst Fund, which is supposed to pay the PA's running costs until the end of March, is broke, and the PA faces a budget deficit of \$16.4 million for February.

The reason is simple - donors did not deliver the money they pledged to an ad-hoc donor liaison committee in Brussels last November.

Many salaries have not been paid for February and March, but Qreia says the PA will find the money for its employees until the donors pay up.

Christopher told the Palestinians there will be an informal donor meeting at the end of the month, Qreia says, and that the ad-hoc donor liaison committee will meet in Paris on April 19.

Palestinians are counting on the US to back their plea to donors to extend a UN mandate for paying the salaries of 9,000 policemen. This will expire the end of April.

Christopher urged Saudi Arabia and other states to fulfill their pledges to the PA, and especially to the Holst Fund, Qreia says.

Last June, Qreia suggested to the World Bank that donors pay for the PA's running costs until June 1995. In Brussels, the donor community reached agreement with Yasser Arafat and planning minister Nabil Shaath to pay the PA's running costs until the end of March only.

The donors expect the Palestinians to fund their budget with tax money after the mandates of the UN and the World Bank run out. "But," says Qreia, "it is ridiculous to assume that the PA can support its budget so soon from taxation."

THE AUTHORITY began collecting taxes about three months ago. Donor sources say tax collection has been successful and organized in the West Bank but unorganized and insufficient in Gaza.

Qreia told US special coordi-

nator for the Middle East, Dennis Ross, during Christopher's visit that the Palestinians will need donor help for the budget - including funds for the civilian administration and police - until the end of December.

The Americans promised to support his plea to donors. Qreia says the donors will be asked to pay for the civil administration and the police until the end of the year.

Qreia says less than \$240m. of the \$700 m. promised by donors for 1994 have been disbursed. Most of the money allocated for infrastructure projects was diverted to the Holst Fund.

Only at the end of 1994 did the PA receive funds for projects in Gaza. These are financed by the World Bank, which has pledged \$128m. for emergency rehabilitation projects - fixing roads, sewage, electricity and water supplies in Gaza. Contracts for \$49m. have been signed and work on these projects is under way.

Qreia mocks the "clean-up Gaza project" financed by the donors to create temporary jobs in Gaza. "What do they want to do, keep dirtying the walls to pay for some unemployed Palestinians to clean them up again?"

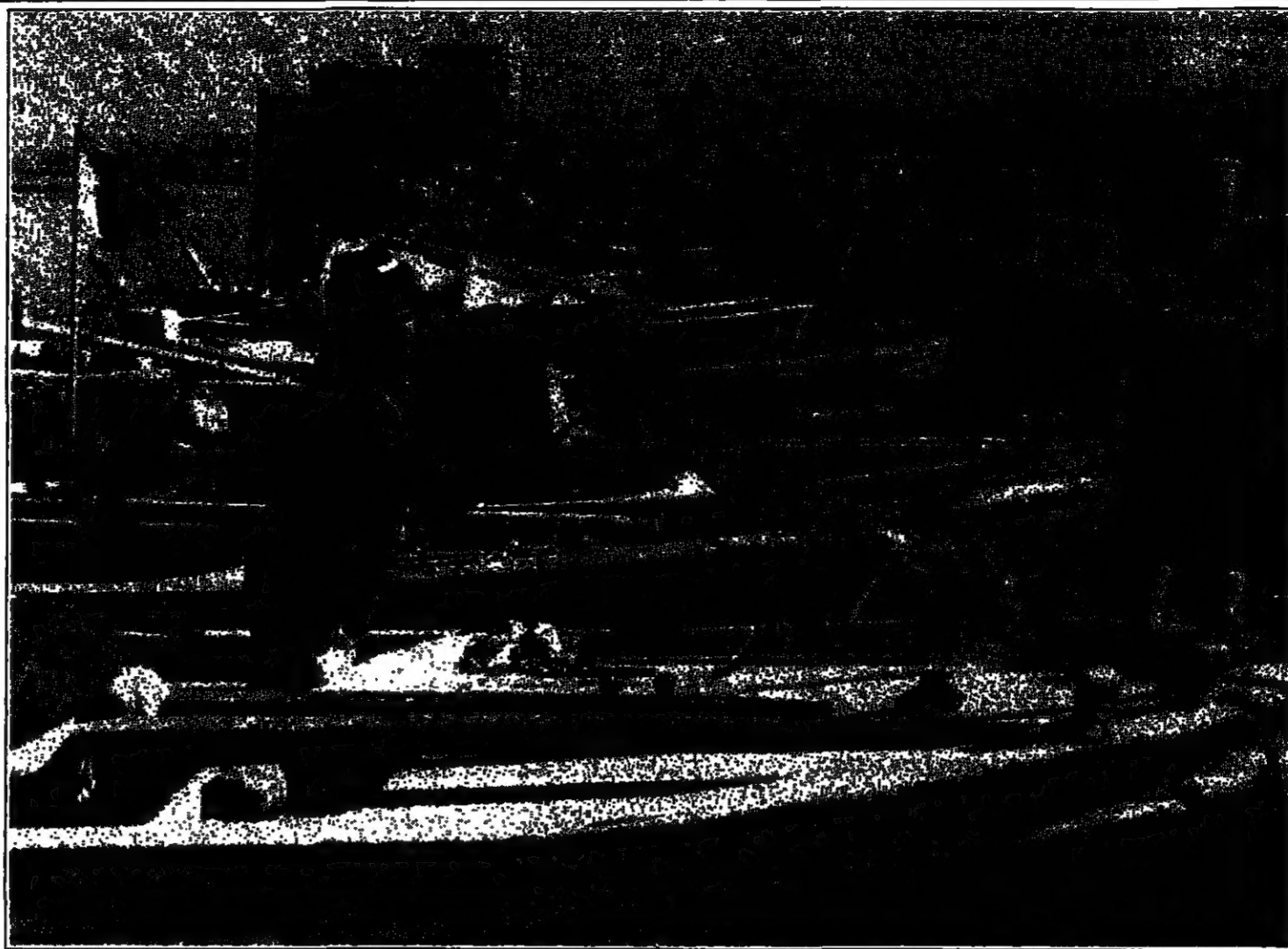
Qreia criticizes donors for sending money through traditional channels like UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations, instead of paying it to the relevant PA ministries or the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDR), which Qreia heads. For example, of \$100m. in aid from Japan, only \$9 m. reached the PA last year, he says.

Donor sources say they are reluctant to send money through PA institutions because they don't see that the PA authority has yet set up a functioning system.

World Bank representative Odin Knutsen says Arafat has set up duplicates of UN or other nongovernmental aid conduits, and the World Bank wants a clear job description for these new bodies.

Qreia says that only the private sector can solve the serious unemployment problem in Gaza and the setting up of the proposed industrial zones is a top priority.

Israel and the Palestinians



A Lebanese fisherman washes his boat Friday after Israel lifted a month-long fishing ban along Lebanon's southern coast. (AP)

The proxy war that time forgot

BARTON GELLMAN

TYRE

FOR a month now, anyone bold enough to put to sea from the normally busy fishing harbor here has met a variation of Deib Mohammed's fate: IDF gunboats fired across his bow a kilometer off the coast in Lebanese waters and forced the 35-year-old skipper to flee without his nets.

Up and down the Mediterranean coast, from Damour, south of Beirut, to Sidon and Tyre, Israel has imposed a fishing and commercial blockade, preventing fishing boats from venturing more than a kilometer from shore.

There is a message in this measured act, but in the tradition of Lebanese power politics it is somewhat obscure. One theory has it Israel is trying to signal Syria, which dominates the country, and Iran, which arms and directs the main force doing battle with Israel and the South Lebanon Army in the security zone.

The message is that Israel is not ready to leave Lebanon and does not intend to be pushed. The fishermen have nothing to do with the fight, as Israeli officials

readily acknowledge, except they are loyal to the hapless central government of Lebanon Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. Because Hariri's patron, Syria, is disturbing Israel's interests in the south, Israel decided to "cause some inconvenience and loss of revenue" in return, according to Uri Labrani, Israel's Lebanon coordinator.

It would be more direct to put the squeeze on Syria - "just give them a wallop and say to hell with it," as one senior Israeli security figure said he would prefer. But that, as *Ma'ariv* noted recently, would mean war at a moment when peace might yet be in sight. The "infringement of Lebanese sovereignty," it said in an editorial, runs no such risk.

Lebanon is the proxy war that time forgot, the last unconquered battlefield in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Year after year, with ebbs and flows but few decisive changes, the players maintain their positions.

The IDF and its proxy - the SLA, led since 1984 by Maj. Gen. Antoine Lahad - hold parts of the southern region to stop Katyusha rocket attacks from there on northern Israel.

Since 1978, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon has maintained a curious observer's role. Neither intended nor equipped to keep peace, the UN forces are reduced to counting explosions and ducking for cover.

Since December, the Iranian-backed Hizbullah has stepped up its war of attrition with Lahad's militia and the IDF. Using improved intelligence and weaponry, it launched 80 attacks in the zone last month. That is the most in at least seven years, according to UN military observers.

Apparently at Syria's behest, Lebanon's government has choked off travel from the SLA-

controlled south. Southern residents with ties to Lahad's militia - and most have ties because the militia collects mandatory taxes and drafts young men - are met with unpleasant treatment at guard posts that mark Lebanon's many internal boundaries.

"For the last few months the population of the security zone has been subjected to a mounting policy of harassment at [Lebanese army] checkpoints," said Lubrani. "We've had to make clear to the other side that ... if they disregard the norms of behavior, then we'll introduce much more stringent measures."

Timur Goksel, spokesman for the UN force here, said the message of the blockade might not be aimed at Beirut or Damascus at all but at the headquarters of Lahad's beleaguered militia. The idea, he said, might be to reassure Lahad's men that Israel is standing up for them.

(Washington Post)

British FM pushes NPT before weapons bazaar

DUBAI (Reuters) - British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said this week that all Middle Eastern states should sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which comes up for renewal next month, to ensure security in the region.

"I think it will be better if all states in the Middle East sign the non-proliferation treaty," Hurd told a press conference during a brief visit to the UAE. "I think that would underline the stability for which we all hope."

Arab League foreign ministers will discuss a coordinated stand on the NPT issue when they meet in Cairo on March 22. Hurd met with UAE President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahayan and other officials for talks on the UN sanctions on Iraq, Iran and British business interests in the UAE.

The foreign secretary also discussed a territorial dispute between the UAE and Iran over the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tumbas.

US officials said this month that Iran had positioned old anti-aircraft missiles on some Gulf islands, but added that they posed no immediate threat.

But Hurd warned that "one needs to be very vigilant in any dealings with Iran." Hurd's visit comes just before the UAE's IDEX defense exhibition which opens March 19.

The world's top arms makers are gathering in the UAE to show off their latest hardware at the Gulf's largest weapons bazaar.

Although weak oil prices in the past two years have forced some Gulf states to slow down their ambitious weapons plans, the region is still a key growth area for arms makers suffering from post-Cold War defense cuts in the West.

Saudi Arabia, the region's largest arms buyer with more than \$30 billion worth of deals mainly with US and British firms, has frozen new orders for 1994 and 1995.

But some of the 500 firms at Abu Dhabi's IDEX '95 hope their hosts would award or declare intentions on multi-billion-dollar deals for frigates, helicopters and up to 80 warplanes.

Egyptian journalists feel the need for bodyguards



JON IMMANUEL

FOR Cairo journalist Tahweed Magdy, Friday is the most important day of the week, not because it is the Moslem Sabbath, but because it's the day Israeli newspapers publish their weekend magazines. It's Magdy's job to translate them.

As head of the Israel desk at *Rose el-Yousef*, the Cairo weekly named after the movie star who established it, Magdy brings another Israel, behind the hard news, into the lives of Egyptians who otherwise would remain ignorant of how Israelis see themselves.

The way the thirtyish, bespectacled journalist sees it, by introducing Israeli society, he is also helping to influence Egyptian mores on democracy, the press and, of course, sex. His translation of a *Yediot Aharonot* story about Tel Aviv prostitutes creat-

ed controversy at the Israeli Embassy, but it also helped prepare the Egyptian public for a home-grown article about Egyptians and sex.

Democracy, sex and the press (25 newspapers, six weekly news magazines) have come a long way since Nasser ruled in the Fifties and Sixties, but Egyptian democracy is still in its infancy.

"There is no state which can reach democracy in 20 years, and Egypt has been under a dictatorship since the pharaohs. Democracy has to be given out in small portions. You have to teach the people," he said defensively at a lecture in Tel Aviv this week.

The most influential Egyptian newspaper is *Al-Akhbar* with a circulation of seven million (not sales, each copy is read by about six people). *Al-Akhbar*, a paper more widely known here, since it's government-sponsored, has declined since its heyday under Nasser, and is read by about three million, "most of whom read it for the apartment ads."

Magdy credits *Al-Akhbar* with stirring up the recent debate over Israel and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which the Egyptian Government has demanded that Israel sign.

Veteran diplomat Tahseen Bashir also said last month that

the government's hard public stance on the NPT issue was influenced by domestic political pressure.

Each paper has its own censor who excises any material considered "insulting to the government," but it does not censor criticism. The difference between now and Nasser's day is that a senior army officer would have ruled out any criticism and an offending journalist could have been jailed.

In Magdy's opinion *The Jerusalem Post* could only have been banned in Egypt last month because it was seen to have broken the taboo against attacking "the father of the house," as the president is considered.

But not all the newspapers back the government. Party newspapers have more liberties. *Al-Wafd*, the main opposition daily, named for the party founded by Saad Zaghloul in opposition to the British in the 1920s, was the paper that attracted students for its boldness when Magdy was growing up in the Seventies.

"It dared to attack the government ministers [but not the president] head on." But since the paper successfully did overthrow one particularly "obnoxious" minister, *Al-Wafd* too has lost its

crusading spirit, says Magdy. His explanation: The paper lacked a permanent policy issue on which to attack the government. "It is now a copy of *Al-Akhbar*. Only occasionally does it have good stories. It has conceded a little."

He says that *Rose el-Yousef* journalists have bodyguards outside their homes, for fear of Islamic movements. "They don't read what we write. They get a fax from Iran telling them 'so-and-so is on our wanted list.'"

The main opposition press today is "the extremist Islamic movement" for which Israel is only one permanent issue among many others, deemed inimical to radical Islam.

The main Islamic daily "*Al-Shaab* is anti-Israel from the gut. Its chief editor went to prison for unauthorized communications with Iran."

For the remaining, essentially pro-government, newspapers Israel is condemned for what it does, not for what it is. "After peace with Syria, Israel will be a state like Jordan or Syria and there will be no need to attack it," Magdy says.

What pulls in readers are "sport, film stars and crime. These are the three pillars of the Egyptian press."

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House of cards

IT is difficult to determine exactly what Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman has been up to in first ordering UN peacekeepers out of his country and then changing his mind. The entire UN house of cards in Bosnia and Croatia looks close to collapse and chill winds blowing out of Zagreb are no help at all.

The most likely explanation is that Tudjman has simply been stamping his foot to gain attention since Croatia has been all but forgotten in the world's anxiety over Bosnia. The domestic machinations of politicians who kick up a fuss on the world stage should not of course be overlooked. Tudjman has to stand for re-election next year and his confrontation with the United Nations has been enormously popular with non-Serbian Croats.

It would be logical therefore if Tudjman's reversal of the expulsion order proved enormously unpopular, but the heavily controlled local news media have put a politically correct spin on the affair so that Tudjman emerges looking good in any case. He ordered the removal of 12,000 UN troops on the grounds that they had merely consolidated the gains made by Serbs during the 1991 war. Rebel Serbs control one third of Croatia - the Krajina enclave - and still dream of uniting with a greater Serbia which would include Bosnia and the rump Yugoslavia.

That means that if the UN were to leave, a new and bloody war in Croatia between government forces and Serbs would be inevitable. As it is, Krajina Serbs are held responsible for the continued fighting in the Bosnian enclave of Bihac across the border, which has undermined the supposed four-month Bosnian cease-fire. This realization brought the international diplomatic community down on Tudjman's head and led him to announce at the UN poverty summit in Copenhagen that he would allow 5,000 UN troops to stay under a new mandate.

Croatia's government and media spin doctors are portraying the climbdown as a triumph that brought the question of Croatia's borders back to the top of the Balkan agenda. The new mandate Tudjman wants from the UN would place the peacekeepers on the official border of Croatia - which Serbs don't recognize - to prevent Yugoslav and Bosnian Serbs from sending military supplies into Krajina.

As far as the Krajina Serbs are concerned,

Tudjman is rocking the boat. They have no intention of finding themselves cut off behind a UN-patrolled border and even less of being re-incorporated into Croatia. The United States, in the person of Vice President Al Gore, has promised "full US support" for extending Zagreb's authority over the territory lost to the Serbs. There is little indication of how "US support" can persuade or force the Serbs to surrender the enclave - at least 10,000 people died in the six-month 1991 war over the Serb secession.

A more cynical view of Tudjman's maneuver is that the threat of war is looming again in Croatia and he is buying time to prepare for it. The price is likely to be paid yet again by an ineffectual and weakened UN force. Croats accepted in 1992 that the UN force brought peace, Serbs indeed saw their arrival as giving them time to consolidate their separation. If the UN forces are deployed to man border checkpoints, that uneasy balance will not hold. US officials are so far talking of no more than 500 UN troops to police 20 to 30 crossing points along Croatia's 1,000 kilometer border with Yugoslavia and Bosnia. That leaves 150 crossing points unattended.

The UN would appear about to inherit another no-win task backed by supportive noises, but no action, from Washington and Europe. The effectiveness of border control would depend on the Krajina Serbs voluntarily agreeing to cut the branch they are sitting on - denying themselves the flow of arms, food and fuel that comes in from their Serb brethren. It appears a most unlikely agreement. If the border controls prove as useless as seems inevitable, Tudjman can simply order the UN to get out again when he feels ready to take on the Serbs.

The only lever available to make a flimsy UN force work appears to be in Belgrade. There Serb President Slobodan Milosevic has gained an easing of UN sanctions by allowing the UN to monitor Serbia's Drina River frontier with Serb-held Bosnia. The monitors are partially successful at blocking military aid to the Bosnian Serbs. If Milosevic can now be persuaded to get the Croat Serbs to accept a similar arrangement, perhaps a little more time can be bought. But in the end, all these creaky arrangements do not bode well for any solution to the Balkan mess.



Jordan's remedial role

LU'AYY M. AL-RIMAWI

THE peace process between Israel and the PLO is running out of steam and creating more problems than solutions.

Its most pernicious by-product: it is deeply shaking grassroots belief in the usefulness and longevity of any comprehensive settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.

Admittedly, resolving the complex issues underlying the peace talks isn't easy. But Israel's choice of Yasser Arafat as its Palestinian partner largely accounts for the mounting failures and lack of material progress.

The parameters of any lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians will ultimately depend on the implementation of UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli question. Accordingly, importing an authoritarian Arafat into the peace equation, complete with an organization characterized by its gang-like modus operandi, couldn't have been anything but a strategic and tactical blunder.

Not only is Gaza's economic deterioration fanning local Islamic rejectionism, it is also generating political malaise, degenerating into intra-Palestinian violence.

Since the implementation of the Oslo accords, the PLO has failed to reform and become even a semi-democratic institution. Most important, the frequently amended Constitutional Document of December 1993 contains no real mechanisms to create a constitutional democracy. Its drafting didn't even provide a means for popular Palestinian deliberation, since, as many prominent Palestinian academics admit, Arafat and his PLO bureaucracy are unjustifiably becoming entrenched in the new system.

Regarding the procrastination in disbanding promised aid, this stems largely from Arafat's ineptness in providing adequate measures for financial accountability. To date, there are no reliable figures

in the territories evokes memories of stability. Of all the Arab leaders, King Hussein undoubtedly enjoys special esteem in the hearts and minds of large sections of the Palestinian people. Needless to say he, like his grandfather before him, truly believes in coexistence between Arabs and Israelis.

No responsible Jordanian or Israeli can afford to deny the gravity of the peace issue between Israel and the Palestinians, for no secure peace with Jordan is achievable without accommodating realistic Palestinian demands.

But given its highly sensitive position, Jordan stands at a grave disadvantage in the face of a perennially destabilized West Bank; this, in turn, negates the hope of full normalization in relations between Jordan and Israel.

In a broader context, a just regional peace would undoubtedly be the salvation of our region, currently beset by radicalism and hatred.

In response to the tragic bombing at Beit Lid at the beginning of this year, Prime Minister Rabin admirably declared that there was no alternative to the path of peace.

That is quite true. There is no alternative to peace. But, for the time being, there is an alternative to the highly risky path of peace with Arafat and his organization. With its maturing political system, demography, and devotion to regional prosperity, a strong Hashemite Jordan democratically embracing the two banks of the River Jordan represents a genuine hope for a stable and prosperous region.

At such disheartening times, the remedial Jordanian role under King Hussein should not be neglected or underestimated by all those who are seriously interested in achieving lasting peace in the region.

The PLO-Israeli economic Partnership Protocol was attacked by one senior IMF official on the grounds that it "neglects the special relationship between the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Jordan." Even today, Jordan's erstwhile religious and civic role

self marginalized and exchanged for a more "Arafat-friendly" one.

To the Palestinians' chagrin, Arafat has imported the personal enmities he and his organization have earned. He is still deeply unpopular among Palestinians in the diaspora, especially after his pro-Saddam stance during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Further, given the plethora of rival Palestinian organizations in Gaza and the West Bank together with the lack of any universal Palestinian democratic ratification of the PLO, the 1974 Rabat Summit's designation of the PLO as the "sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people" may justifiably be disputed.

ALL THIS leads one to ask: Why the insistence on Arafat as a full partner in a clearly doomed process? Surely the historical role of Jordan in the West Bank must earnestly be revisited.

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The long and the short of it

JAY MATHEWS

IF we short people ever rule the world, boarding up all high shelves and outlawing basketball, the first bronze statue we erect on the low steps of our new capitol is likely to be of a 1.75-meter engineer from San Diego named Thomas T. Samaras.

In a stunning 318-page manifesto, entitled *The Truth About Your Height: Exploring the Myths and Realities of Human Size and Its Effects on Performance, Health, Pollution and Survival*, Samaras explains why the human species must downsize

Our species must downsize or die

its steadily rising average height (about 1.75 meters for US men, 1.60 meters for women) or die.

Samaras sets us vertically challenged folks as the vanguard of a future, much-improved human race, and the only salvation from environmental catastrophe.

"Increasing human size has a very high price tag," he writes. "We suffer huge extra costs in relation to health, energy consumption, resources needs, pollution, and economic progress."

Michael J. Fox, some zealous believe, would do fine in Liam Neeson's parts, and Holly Hunter can put as well as Geena Davis.

EACH GENERATION is growing about an average of an inch taller than the previous one.

In my house, one son looks down tolerantly from 1.8 meters, the other is 10 cms taller than I am and growing, and my 10-year-old daughter is stealing my shirts.

This frightening surge of growth hormones is, Samaras reports, the result of overabundant plant and animal protein, milk, fat - and especially sugar.

Samaras proposes "a low-calorie, low-fat diet for children that will allow parents to control growth without any harmful effects on the child's mental development and physical health."

He does not stop there. There should be, he postulates, a minimum height for useful physical activity, such as swinging an ax. When the woodsman is too small, research indicates, the ax starts swinging him.

Brain size diminishes with height, so Samaras investigates how much smaller we can be and still have enough gray matter to set the video recorder.

"It would appear," he concludes, "that an average height of 1.2 to 1.4 meters would be the smallest we'd want to get."

Science has to shrink the race, he says, because natural selection has blown it.

In an eye-popping section of the book titled *How Stature Affects Lovemaking Ability*, Samaras acknowledges that "most women are attracted to men who are taller than themselves."

This, to Samaras and many of the rest of us, is colossal unfair and based on faulty assumptions.

Quick to cite a French source when dealing with *l'amour*, Samaras notes most women responding to a poll by the magazine *Marie-France* "did not find tall, athletic looking men to be superior lovers."

Furthermore, short people have had a remarkable impact on history in one way (1.5-meter Saint Francis of Assisi, the even smaller Mother Teresa) or another (1.5-meter Anita Hill, the Hun, and the similarly height-challenged Marquis de Sade).

There are plenty of nice productive tall people, Samaras admits, but eventually we will be unable to afford the upkeep on our Abraham Lincolns, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Janet Reno.

On average, "the larger person creates about 73 percent more wastes due to greater use of water, food, materials, and various products."

Ann Watt, the 2-meter-plus founder of New York's Tall Club, says, tongue in lofty cheek, that "tall people are considered superior beings and get more accomplished in the world."

Responds Samaras: "I just want to get people thinking about what I am saying. Bigger is not always better."

(Washington Post)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sir, - I write to respond to the "Eye on the Media" column of February 24. In doing so I do not seek to endorse in any way the views of Gasteyer quoted at length in the article.

Whether used in Palestine, Israel, the US or Australia chemical fertilizers, pesticides and weedkillers are recognized as not being a universal good. For example, where chemicals are used as a broad spectrum antidote, they may become less effective, may kill beneficial insects and have bad effects on humans. A major project in Indonesia has been targeted at improving the capacity of its rice farmers to identify the real pests, to eliminate them where possible through manual destruction of their eggs, or encouragement of predators, and the more limited use of chemicals of narrower spectrum. Productivity is rising and use of chemicals falling.

A more tendentious viewpoint expressed in the article is that in its final paragraph: "Israel has transformed a poverty-stricken, disease-ridden, backward population into a thriving, industrious, educated, computerized, agriculturally sophisticated, immigration drawing, television-owning society. It is a crime for which Israel will never be forgiven."

It is difficult to take this view seriously. There has been progress, no one could argue with that, but it has been far less than has occurred in Israel during the period of the occupation. It has been based upon dependence - work in Israel or pro-

duction for export to or through Israel. As one Palestinian clothing manufacturer explained, "We could not compete with goods produced in Israel in the US market. We have no agreements because we have no government. We have no government organization to help in identifying trade opportunities. But worst of all, we cannot ensure continuity of production because of the closures. Just when we think that we are getting back to normal, there is another incident which leads to interruptions of supply."

There are computers but the backlog of telephone calls is immense, and much of the infrastructure of a modern society has been left inefficient at best. Palestinians have returned, hopeful that the peace process would give them an opportunity, or thrown out of other Arab countries. Many of them are now dependent on real economic opportunity and are seeking opportunities elsewhere.

Where does this leave us? Neither the half-baked views of Gasteyer nor the provocative ones of Bar-Ilan offer a solution. Industrial zones in Palestine, involving Palestinian, joint Palestinian/Israeli, or other international companies which have the same opportunities to enter markets as does Israel will go a long way to reducing the effects of Israel's real "crime" - that it did not do enough during its occupation.

SHAHER SA'ED,
General Secretary,
Palestine General Federation
of Trade Unions

Nablus.

PRESSURE FOR WAR

Sir, - I have begun to notice a trend among left-wing political analysts, Abbe Eban, Anthony Lewis, Tom Friedman et al., which seems to indicate that a separation of the Israelis and Arabs along the 1949 armistice line is the only "way" to peace.

My belief is that a return to those borders would be a psychological catastrophe for the Israeli public and would only ensure that an Israeli-initiated war would shortly occur.

I think that the war in June 1967 occurred because of the belief of the Israeli leadership that it had no choice. Israel could not afford to absorb a first strike and thus a war which might have been avoided had to occur. Israel had no room for error.

I am saddened when I see that no objective thinking is taking place along these lines. Even Joseph Alpher, formerly of the Jaffee Center, seems to believe that territorially, more is less and less is more, that is more land, less security, less land, more security. I don't claim to enjoy any special expertise concerning this matter. But common sense tells me that without territorial depth and borders which can be guarded and secured, we will certainly find ourselves, emotionally, where we were in May 1967, treating every threat existentially and evaluating every threat as if it could be our last. I don't think anyone, Arab or Israeli, if they stop and think about it, wants to place Israel in that corner.

KIRYAT ARBA, KEN BESIG

'A VIEW FROM NOV'

Sir, - Moshe Kohn's articles, *A View from Nov*, are always both interesting and instructive. "The 'natural alternative'" was no exception (March 3).

One comment, however: "A land without a people to a people without a land" was not coined by William Blackstone in 1878. The author of the dictum is Anthony Ashley-Cooper, the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury (1801-1885). He penned it in 1853, during the Crimean War. His support for the return of the Jews to the Land of Israel complemented his views on the need to deal with the expected disintegration of the Ottoman Empire. (E. Hodder, *The Life and Works of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury*, London 1886, p. 478).

ZEPHANIAH KAHALANI

Herzliya.

Moshe Kohn comments: In his book, *America and the Holy Land*, in the context of which I discussed Blackstone, Prof. Moshe Davis indeed mentions the view that the dictum originated with Lord Shaftesbury. The problem may be in the difference in the precise formulation. What Blackstone wrote and I quoted was "...a land without a people, and a people without a land," which differs from the one Kahalani cites.

THE BANNING OF THE 'POST'

Sir, - Yehuda Blum's article of February 13, "Behind the symbolism," attacks the policy of both Esat Abdel Meguid and Amr Moussa toward Israel and is considered a critique. Every writer has the right to criticize and express his opinions on any topic. To retort bitterly as the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior did by prohibiting the distribution of *The Jerusalem Post* inside Egypt without logical explanation is a manifestation of undemocratic policy in modern times.

In totalitarian states, there is no liberty of opinion for writers of newspapers and I cannot fathom such unreasonable policy on the part of a state which is known as a democratic republic state. It is deplorable that, by this hostile retort, Egypt is behaving as a totalitarian regime subordinate to an autocratic hierarchy. Most Egyptian newspapers publish daily critical articles about Israel. Does Israel take punitive measures as Egypt did?

NOUHAD GIDEON, Nazareth.

Abandoned by the Jews

AARON LERNER

WHEN Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin meets with Yasser Arafat to discuss Israel's demands that the Palestinian Authority fight terror, one of the most brutal forms of focused terrorism is not even addressed: terror against Arab "collaborators."

Arabs who provided Israel with critical, life-saving intelligence information now find themselves abandoned by the Jewish state as they are hunted, tortured and murdered by Arafat's secret police.

Arafat's dragnet already encompasses the entire West Bank and Jerusalem, and is now spreading out to include Israeli Arab communities as well. Much of the blame for this deplorable development can be attributed to the Rabin government.

It did not have to be this way. The Cairo Agreement specifically addresses the situation of the collaborators, and states that "Until an agreed solution is found, the Palestinian side undertakes not to prosecute these Palestinians or to harm them in any way" (Article XX, paragraph 5).

Yet from the start, Israel ignored the treatment of collaborators by the PA. Even when Palestinians were kidnapped and dragged to Jericho for questioning, torture, and even execution, the Israeli authorities chose to avert their eyes.

The Rabin government did not simply remain silent; it took a critical step which sent a clear signal to the PA as to just how Israel really feels about the col-

laborators.

AT THE start of the talks regarding the release of terrorists, Israel insisted that it would not allow the release of terrorists "with blood on their hands." The phrase "blood on their hands" was initially taken at face value: no murderers would be released.

But as the negotiations proceeded and the prisons began to

empty, Israel revised its definition to exclude those who murdered collaborators. And so, terrorists who tortured collaborators to death were released by Israel, while those responsible for Jewish deaths remained behind bars.

The message to the PA is clear: murdering collaborators is an acceptable activity - just don't kill Jews.

The Israeli Arab community has picked up on the message and taken a very strong stand against the collaborators. Israeli Arab leaders say openly and repeatedly that they consider the collaborators to be "traitors to their people."

This leads to questions such as: Would these Israeli Arabs consider it immoral for an Arab from Jaffa to help foil a terrorist attack

against Jews?

Abandoning the collaborators has already cost Israel dearly. Israel's intelligence capability within the autonomous areas has been terribly weakened, and the situation in the West Bank as a whole is rapidly deteriorating.

But the damage goes far beyond the loss of intelligence information.

Deserted by Israel, many collaborators are now under pressure to "atone" for their past by participating in terrorist attacks against Jews.

The terrorist from Kabatiya, near Nablus, who brutally hacked a woman soldier in Afula to death last November told the court that he did it to prove to members of Arafat's Fatah organization that he wasn't a collaborator.

He knew that Israeli prisons are safer than the PA's torture chambers.

The writer is an associate of IMRA (Independent Media Review).

POSTSCRIPTS

DID YOU ever wonder exactly what ingredients go into a McDonald's hamburger? Oskar Keyssell of London has discovered the secret: diamonds.

Keyssell bit into a Big Mac and found a diamond worth £1,000. Along with the diamond he found the gold stud of an earring.

He showed the manager the gold stud and was given a free hamburger, but he kept the diamond.

Dutch consensus holds back flood of headaches

Holland has earned a reputation for its liberalism, fairness, trustworthiness and worldwide concerns. It is also running into problems of its own.

Evelyn Gordon reports

GOD made the world, but the Dutch made Holland, according to an old Dutch saying.

And what they have made of it is a fascinating combination of a teenager's openness to experimentation, combined with an adult's stability and courtesy.

The teenager side of the Dutch has given them the reputation of being one of the most open societies in Europe on issues such as drug use, abortion, prostitution and euthanasia. It is a reputation that the Dutch insist has been blown out of proportion.

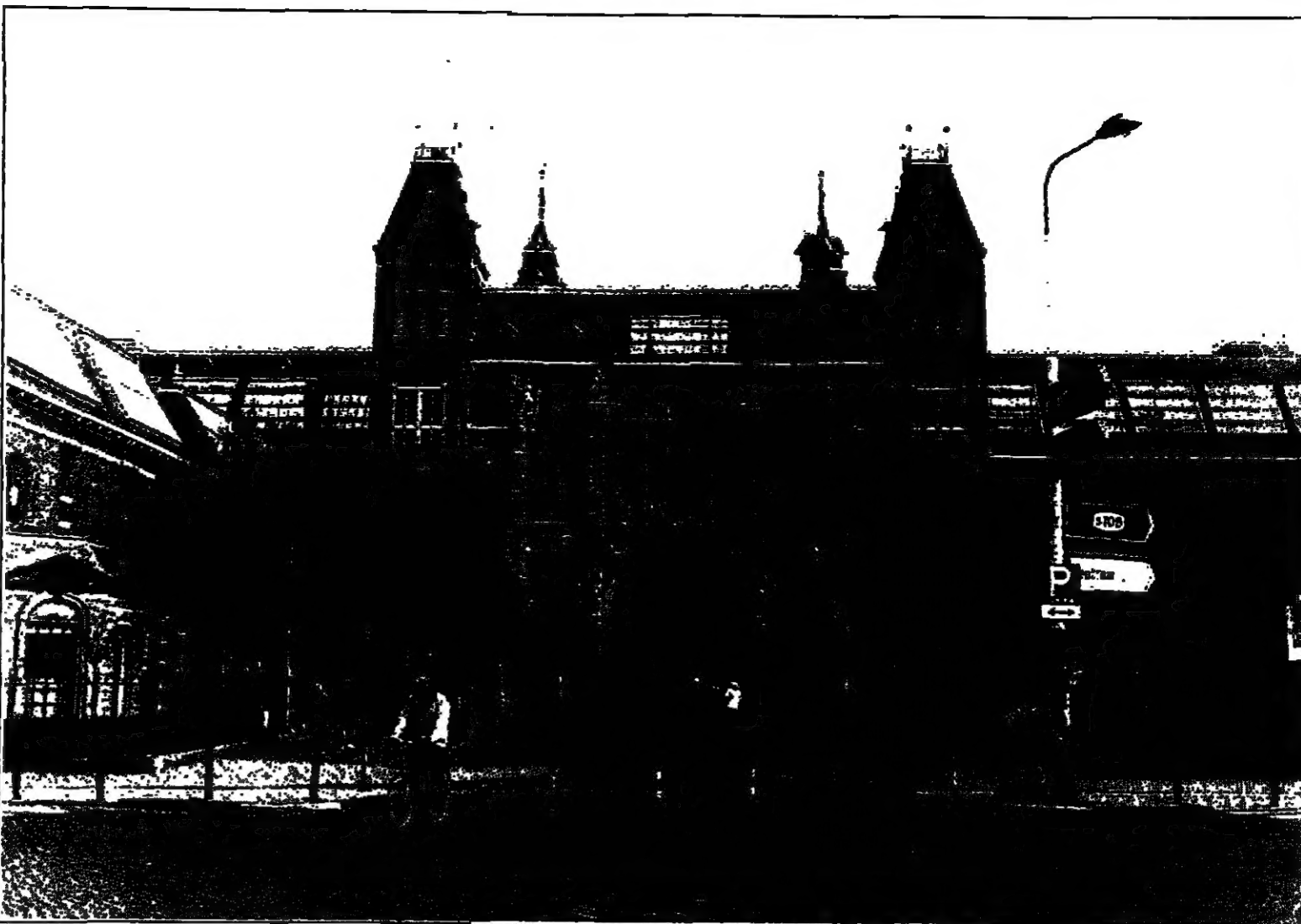
Abortion rules, for instance, are stricter than in the US, and the Dutch say they have the lowest abortion rate in Europe, partly because contraceptives are heavily subsidized by health insurance plans and education on contraceptive methods is widespread.

Euthanasia, meanwhile, is still technically illegal, though in certain cases, it will not lead to prosecution. Since one of the criteria for non-prosecution is a long-term doctor-patient relationship, people cannot just go to Holland for euthanasia as they used to go to Reno for a divorce.

The Dutch admit that they tend to turn a blind eye to the use of soft drugs — though they are technically illegal — preferring to concentrate on hard drugs. While this leniency is much resented by the rest of Europe, which blames the Dutch for not doing their share in the war on drugs, the Dutch say indignantly that the rest of Europe is trying to blame its failures on Holland.

But even if the reputation is overblown, there are obviously elements of truth to it. It is something of a shock to enter the most expensive and elegant hotel in The Hague, the Hotel des Indes, and find that six of the 12 movies available on the pay-TV are labeled "erotic."

A less controversial area of experimentation has been the environment, which appears to be a national passion in the Netherlands. The government is willing to grant substantial subsidies for expensive water-saving building, in the hope that techniques will be developed which can be widely applied. Surprisingly for a country which appears to be half sea, the Dutch have a shortage of usable water.



One of Amsterdam's most popular tourist attractions is the Rijksmuseum, which features works by Rembrandt. (Universal Pictorial Press)

The people cooperate willingly in complex trash collection procedures that require separating garbage into a dozen bins to ease recycling. The environment can even provoke a parliamentary crisis.

Perhaps most indicative of this national passion, however, was a sign prominently posted in each room of the Hotel des Indes: "Dear hotel guest: Can you imagine how many tons of towels are unnecessarily wasted every day in hotels all over the world, and the enormous amount of detergent needed, which thereby pollutes our water? Please decide for yourself: Towels on the floor means 'please change them.' Towels on the towel rail means 'I will use them again.' For a healthy environment."

A high-class American hotel would rather shut down than post such a notice.

Education is another area where the Dutch welcome innovation. About 70 percent of the schools are state-supported private schools,

which are free to put their own slant on education within the limits of a curriculum which is largely state-mandated.

The trend toward experimentalism is balanced, however, by a healthy respect for the norms of democratic life and a tradition of cooperation with the government. For an Israeli, it comes as a shock to learn that in Holland, it would be unthinkable for a minister to refuse a summons to Parliament. The Dutch constitution even forbids the courts from declaring a law unconstitutional, on the theory that the elected legislature can be trusted with upholding the constitution better than the unelected courts; however, jurists predict that this will change within 10 years.

It says something about the Dutch government that, while it has the equivalent of petitions to the High Court of Justice, the cases brought in such petitions are generally marginal and arouse little media interest.

Politicians are also inculcated with a strong sense of responsibility. Recently, for instance, reports surfaced of police leaks to the underworld, and the justice and police ministers wanted to set up an investigatory committee. Parliament said no; it would be better to let the incoming government establish the committee. Both ministers promptly resigned from their positions, and, largely, from political life, saying it was not proper to continue in their posts if parliament lacked full confidence in them.

There is also no parliamentary immunity except in the area of free speech, which perhaps helps to reduce crime by politicians.

The Dutch are extremely fond of their royal family and look down with smug pity at the troubles their across-the-sea neighbor, Britain, is having with its royals. They talk of how the 85-year-old queen mother, Juliana, still goes skiing every winter, and of how Queen Beatrix — who will be visiting here March 27 to 29 — takes the

wheel herself when she goes sailing. In short, a "normal family," they say with pride.

Interestingly, the seeds of Dutch liberalism can be seen even in this most conservative of institutions. The Dutch have always passed the crown down to the eldest child of either sex, rather than the eldest male. The next reigning monarch will therefore be a king, but the last three have been queens.

An Israeli cannot help but think wistfully of how nice it would be to have nothing more serious on the national agenda than the environment. However, the Dutch are not totally at peace: The sea is a constant enemy, and the Dutch treat it as seriously as Israel does Arab terror.

The country's recent water problems were caused by river flooding.

Much of Holland has been reclaimed from the sea — the land now occupied by Schiphol Airport, for instance, was a deep lake until the 1850s — and the huge dikes on the south coast, the Delta Works, are a monument to the effort the Dutch have invested in this battle. They are also a must-see for any visitor to the country.

The Dutch are also grappling with the same problem that has gripped most of the Western world — what to do with a welfare state that is rapidly going out of control.

Social benefits in Holland are generous. The welfare allowance, for instance, is about \$340 — some 60% of the average monthly wage — and criteria for eligibility are liberal. To pay for this, however, those who work must contribute up to 60% of their income in taxes, and resentment is growing. Recently, therefore, the government began retrenchment. University students, for instance, can no longer receive stipends for an unlimited amount of time.

How to deal with refugees is another hot issue, with many of the Dutch favoring tighter restrictions. According to Foreign Ministry Director-General Joris Vos, 80 to 90 percent of those appearing before the criminal courts are refugees.

The Netherlands continues to attract visitors, who go to stroll through fields covered in carpets of crocuses, even in February; to browse at the 800-meter-long Aalsmeer flower market, the longest in the world; and to explore the Rijksmuseum, with its collection of works by Rembrandt and other Dutch painters.

The International Court in The Hague is also worth seeing, both to learn about the institution and to admire the exquisitely beautiful building, a product of contributions from all over the world which somehow manage to harmonize rather than clash.

The harmony reflected in the Peace Palace is a metaphor for the Dutch people, which values cooperation and consensus above all. They define themselves as a nation of merchants, and selling requires learning how to look at things from the other person's point of view.

Perhaps more than anything else, it is this emphasis on cooperation that enables the Netherlands to be at once diverse and relaxing — a combination which makes for a wonderful holiday.

The great myth: Saving Jews in the Holocaust

ONE of the most disconcerting aspects of a trip to the Netherlands is learning the truth about accounts of the Dutch protecting their Jewish neighbors from the Holocaust: that it's a myth.

It is true that there are more Righteous Gentiles from Holland than from any other country. However, 75% to 90% of Holland's 140,000 Jews died in the Holocaust. That's a higher percentage than in any other Western European country, and than in many Eastern European countries as well.

This was not entirely the fault of the Dutch. The well-organized Dutch-Jewish community kept lists of all its members and, according to Jewish sources, it was the Jewish leadership which turned these lists over to the Germans, thereby facilitating the roundups.

The myth, however, appears to be important to the Dutch. On the one hand, they have conscientiously accepted responsibility via the numerous Holocaust memorials they have erected, the most famous being the Anne Frank House. Bouquets of flowers are often spontaneously left at the monuments, and even in bad weather, the lines waiting to see the Anne Frank House stretch around the block.

The care which has been lavished on developing the Anne Frank House is evident. Just seeing the tiny rooms where two families lived for two years is

powerful, and the Dutch have complemented this with superb exhibitions showing both the unique horror of the Holocaust and the universal horror that Nazism brought to Europe.

However, in an apparent need to maintain the myth, many of the monuments place as much emphasis on rescue activities as they do on the destruction. And the major monument to all the dead of World War II is disturbingly Christian, though the Dutch insist that a figure which appears to be Jesus on the cross is really nondenominational.

Ugliness is also evident at Amsterdam-Rotterdam soccer matches, where the former team has somehow become "the Jews" and the latter "the Nazis," complete with Nazi salutes and swastikas, according to one Israeli observer.

"Even 50 years after the war, hundreds of thousands of people cannot accept the reality of that period," Prime Minister Willem Kok admits. "Let us never make it easy on ourselves by saying, 'It was just the Germans; it had nothing to do with us.'"

The Jewish community is still traumatized by the Holocaust. No one knows for sure how many Jews there are, because many — perhaps as many as 70% of the country's Jews — are still afraid to put their names on any community list. Some estimates by communal officials put the Jewish population at around 30,000, however it is common to see the



Visitors line up at Holland's most famous Holocaust memorial, the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, this week. (AP)

Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue, built to hold 1,400, with a mere 50 worshippers on Shabbat.

It is especially sad in a country which, compared to most of Europe, has treated its Jews well.

Even in the Middle Ages, Jews could not be forced to wear special clothing and they were not put in ghettos. In this sense, the "myth" of the good Dutch is entirely true.

E.G.

Why ties to Israel are 'special'

PERHAPS because of guilt over the Holocaust, the Netherlands has always considered itself to have a "special relationship" with Israel.

In some ways, this special relationship is quite real. The Dutch, for instance, were the only Europeans to send Patriot missiles here, and thousands of Dutch citizens attended rallies in support of Israel during the Gulf war. And Israeli officials say Holland is Israel's staunchest supporter within the European Union. For instance, the Dutch have been very sympathetic to Israel's desire to upgrade its trade agreement with the EU.

Recently, it also answered Israel's call to aid the Palestinians, working on environmental projects in Gaza at a cost of \$60 million to \$70m., according to an Israeli official.

The Dutch see no contradiction in suspending this "specialness" at will whenever Israel displeases them.

It is, for instance, the only European country which maintains a military embargo against Israel. It also adamantly refuses to return its embassy to Jerusalem until eastern Jerusalem is annexed.

Partly, this is a function of Holland's own ardent internationalism. The Dutch are genuine believers in international law, to the point that they will amend their own laws to adjust to international norms. Any Dutch court is empowered to declare a law in violation of the European Treaty, though no court can declare a law

in violation of the Dutch constitution. For the same reason, the Dutch favor a stronger European Union, an enlarged NATO and an active US role.

Holland also has an interest in foreign policy which is far beyond its size, spending 1% of the budget on foreign aid, which according to Israeli officials is high. At one time, it paid for one-third of Israel's foreign aid to Africa.

But Israeli officials say the turning point was the Lebanon War, followed by the intifada, which caused Israel to go "from white to black with no intermediate stop at gray," one said.

It was only the Gulf war which showed the Dutch that Israel's security fears were real and that the Palestinians were not all sweetness and light. And with that, a slow reversal of Dutch attitudes began.

E.G.

BIBLE LANDS MUSEUM JERUSALEM

presents a Saturday Night Concert
Saturday, March 18, 1995, at 8:30 p.m.
THE "BASSARABIA ENSEMBLE"



Michael Goroditzky — Clarinet
Eli Belnick — Accordion
Eitan Kirsh — Contrabass

Wine and Cheese: 8:00 p.m.; Concert: 8:30 p.m.

All Tickets Sold Out for This Concert
Benefits The Jerusalem Post Funds

Next week, March 25, 1995, at 8:30 p.m.
"The Jerusalem Consort" with a Baroque Program

BIBLE LANDS MUSEUM JERUSALEM
25 Granot St., Jerusalem, Tel. 02-611066

American Holocaust survivor sues German companies

SINCE the US Supreme Court rejected his bid last year to sue Germany for reparations, Holocaust survivor Hugo Prinz has pursued an alternate route to obtain compensation: He is suing the German companies for whom he was forced to work while he was a prisoner at Auschwitz.

Prinz sought reparations estimated at \$5.7 million, which Germany denied because Prinz was a US citizen during the war. The New Jersey man's efforts to wrest reparations from the German government through American courts were then stymied because US law prevents private American citizens from suing foreign governments.

But a US appellate court recently ruled that Prinz may proceed with his case against the

German companies, in which he is seeking some \$200m. in damages. Bonn tried to quash this case, but the US court held that the German government had no standing in the current case.

Members of Congress have been trying to assist Prinz by introducing legislation that would allow victims of genocide to sue foreign governments.

A SPECIAL public school district serving the Satmar haredic community of Kiryas Joel in upstate New York has survived a court challenge after a similar legal attack last year threatened to put it out of business.

Last summer, days after the US Supreme Court ruled that a New York State law creating a special school district for Kiryas Joel was unconstitutional, the

JEWISH WORLD

State Assembly leaped to pass another law to maintain the district. That law was challenged, as the first had been, as a violation of the constitutionally mandated separation of church and state.

But a state court ruled last week that the school district was legal, noting that the assembly "has, at most, permissibly accommodated the Satmars without singling them out for favorable treatment."

The Satmar community in the village 80 km. north of New York City operates its own yeshivot, but sought the special district to qualify for state aid for the education of some 200 disabled children. The haredim contended that their life-style and dress made it impossible for their chil-

dren to attend nearby public schools for the disabled.

A TREASURE trove of Judaica recently arrived at the Manhattan headquarters of the YIVO Yiddish Institute for Jewish Research from Vilnius, Lithuania, where YIVO was established 70 years ago.

After years of negotiations, the institute received 35 boxes of papers that document Eastern European Jewish life. Among the materials were an invitation to the wedding of Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who later became the seventh Lubavitcher rebbe; a letter from Albert Einstein; and a school newspaper with an article about the founding of the Hebrew University.

JERUSALEM'S Shehebar Se-

phardic Center has assumed responsibility for Sephardi Jewry in Uzbekistan. Late last year the center, which trains teachers and spiritual leaders, opened full-time Jewish schools in two cities, where some 200 children are enrolled. The center hopes to expand the schools and open schools in Tashkent and Margelan.

A DUTCH Christian organization, the Working Group for Maintenance of Jewish Cemeteries, does even more than its name suggests. Besides looking after Jewish cemeteries in the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe, the group has a history of caring for Holocaust survivors and saying Hebrew prayers, translated into Dutch, at the sites of concentration camps.

Your family is waiting for you!
Drive with care!
Arrive home safely!

Ya'acov Perry named CEO of Cellcom

JUDY SIEGEL

FORMER General Security Services head Ya'acov Perry has been appointed president and chief executive officer of Cellcom.

Perry, who retired from the GSS earlier this month, will begin his new position on April 2.

The 51-year-old Perry, a graduate of Tel Aviv University who spent 30 years in the GSS, was welcomed to the cellular-phone company by its chairman Dov Tadmor.

Tadmor said Cellcom was "fortunate to recruit as its president a person of Perry's caliber and experience."

Roberto Peon, president of Bell-South Latin American and the Middle East, one of the partners in Cellcom, said Perry's management record will help the team provide high-quality, low-priced cellular phone services to "all the people of Israel."

Nearly 30,000 Israelis have become Cellcom subscribers since service began in the Dan region six



Former GSS head Ya'acov Perry. (PPA/Gideon Markowicz)

months ago. It also recently opened in Jerusalem and is due to start providing services in Haifa before the end of the month.

Yehuda Welded Mesh buys Ram Industries

RACHEL NEIMAN

LIQUIDATED metalworks Ram Industries was purchased yesterday by wire fence manufacturer Yehuda Welded Mesh.

Yehuda Welded Mesh will pay \$46 million, not including VAT, for Ram properties, with an option to buy stock and current assets for an additional \$7m.

If Yehuda Welded Mesh decides to exercise the option, the company will benefit from a tax loss. Ram has been in receivership since 1992.

Even if Yehuda Welded Mesh does not exercise the option,

Ram's managers may still sell the inventory and divide the proceeds among the firm's creditors.

The sale price is close to the \$54m. originally offered in the creditors arrangement. Ram owner Ruby Asa was reportedly satisfied with the deal.

Yehuda Welded Mesh originally offered \$36m., but raised its bid following a \$47m. offer by Belgium consortium TNR, which requested 10 days to transfer the funds.

TNR was prepared to pay interest on the additional elapsed time, but Yehuda Welded Mesh was chosen over TNR by Judge Yishai Leviti because it met the tender offer's original stipulation of three days.

Ram's secured creditors - which include Maritime Bank, Industrial Development Bank and PKO, a Polish bank - were owed \$18m. Several million dollars were owed to unsecured creditors, who will now receive almost twice as much compensation as was expected.

GDP increases 7% in '94

JOSE ROSENFELD

ADJUSTED figures for 1994 show the economy grew seven percent, as reflected by the rise in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The GDP measures the total value of goods produced and services provided by the economy.

During the first quarter of last year the GDP expanded 7%, dropping 6% in the following quarter due to the closure of the territories. The economy rebounded with an 8% rise in the GDP in the third quarter, which was followed by a more moderate 3% increase in the last quarter.

The business product, which measures the GDP, excluding public and housing services, jumped 8% from 3.5% in 1993, and was 40% higher than in 1989. The expansion reflected industrial production and building growth of 7%. Trade and services surged 9%.

Labor productivity fell 1% following decreases of the same magnitude in the preceding two years. The bureau's end-of-the-year projections had estimated labor productivity remaining unchanged.

Gross hourly wages rose 1% in real terms, after remaining unchanged in the previous two years. Private sector wages shrank 3%, while public sector wages shot up 10%, as a result of the government's generous salary agreements.

Private consumption soared 9%, a record 6% increase per capita. Most of the increase occurred during the first half of the year. During the first quarter, private consumption shot up 14%, followed by a 9% rise in the second quarter. In the third quarter, consumption fell 5%, bouncing back by the same amount in the last quarter.

Durable goods purchases - including furniture, household equipment and cars - increased 11%, or 8% per capita. In the past five years, household durable goods expenditures expanded by 65%.

Car purchases grew 7% per capita, furniture 12% and household appliances 8%.

Consumption of non-durables rose 6%.

Israel's spending abroad shot up 14% on top of the previous year's 25% increase. Although a record number of Israelis traveled abroad last year, the expenditure per traveler dropped, as more of them vacationed closer to home.

Public consumption was unchanged due to the drop in military spending, including defense imports. However, civilian public consumption rose 5%, following a 3% rise in 1993.

Fixed capital formation increased 13%, after increasing marginally in 1993.

Capital investments in machines, equipment, vehicles, non-residential buildings and infrastructure shot up 17% following a 16.7% increase in the previous year.

Since 1989, capital investments soared 134%. Capital industrial investments rose 25%, trade and services 14%, water and electricity 15%, construction equipment 19% and transportation 29%.

Investment in housing was up 2%, after shrinking in the previous year. Private construction shot up 12%, while public housing contracted 29%.

The rapid increase in private consumption and investments pushed imports up 13%, which jumped 20% in each of the first two quarters and fell 8% in the third quarter, only to rebound by the same amount in the last quarter.

Exports jumped 11%, registering a 24% rise in the first quarter, followed by a 10% increase. In the third quarter, exports shrank 6%, recovering with a bang, jumping 32% in the last quarter.

The trade deficit rose by \$2.2 billion to \$8.2b. as a result of the substantial rise in imports.

The tax burden as a percentage of the GDP rose to 42% from 40% in the previous year, as a result of higher direct taxes.

As consumption outstripped growth, private net savings from disposable income fell to 7% from 11% in the previous year.

Indigo suffers \$333,000 net loss in fourth quarter

RACHEL NEIMAN

INDIGO yesterday reported a net loss of \$333,000 for the fourth quarter, compared with a \$5.6m. net profit during the same period in 1993.

Revenues rose to \$37.3m. from \$22.5m., as sales began to pick up.

Annual net losses were \$20.9m., compared with a loss of \$19.2m. in 1993. Revenues for the year rose to \$90.75m. from \$30.7m.

Last year Indigo sold 166 E-Print short-run color offset printing systems, compared with 20 in 1993.

In the fourth quarter, the com-

pany sold 80 units.

In 1993, Indigo received several one-time lump sum payments from patent licensees.

The company anticipates that revenues from this source, which fell in 1994, will continue to decline this year.

Last year the company completed an initial public offering in the US, which raised \$100m.

CEO Benny Landa said a complete range of options - such as High Definition Imaging, Six Color Printing and HiFi Color and Real Time Personalization - would be available to customers by the end of the year.

Israel Chemicals posts rise in annual net earnings, but fourth quarter profits plummet

RACHEL NEIMAN

ISRAEL Chemicals yesterday announced a small rise in annual net profits to NIS 115.77 million from NIS 113m. in 1993.

Earnings per share went up to NIS 0.096 from NIS 0.094.

Annual revenues rose to NIS 3.5 billion from NIS 3.1b. However, fourth quarter net

profits slipped to \$4.1m. from \$15.6m. during the same period in 1993.

Fourth quarter revenues fell to \$281.5m. from \$322m.

Last month the government sold 24.9 percent of ICL shares

for \$230.3m. to the Israel Corporation and Penn-Belmore Inc., both owned by the Eisenberg group.

ICL is no longer considered a government corporation, although the government still owns

a "golden share" of 28%.

ICL intends to raise some \$50m. through share issues abroad this year, and earlier this month registered its prospectus with the US Securities Exchange Commission.

ICL employs some 7,400 workers here and abroad.

BT plans bid for license to carry international calls

NEIL COHEN

BRITISH Telecom announced yesterday it will lead a consortium that will bid for the Communications Ministry's planned tender to grant a license for a second national carrier for international calls.

The BT consortium includes Tadiran, Idan Software Industries and Darcom, a subsidiary of Idan.

BT will hold 30 percent of the consortium, with each of the other three parties holding a 23.33% stake.

Darcom and Idan are callback operators that have strong ties

with the Israeli business community through their experience in the outgoing call voice market.

Tadiran is a telecoms equipment manufacturer, and distributes the BT-MCI joint venture service Concert here.

Senior BT officials have been here this week as members of the British business delegation accompanying Prime Minister John Major.

Britain's second biggest telecoms company, Cable and Wireless, is discussing the possibility of a joint venture with Bezek to carry international calls.

Tsur blasts high price of beef

AGRICULTURE Minister Ya'acov Tsur criticized the high price of beef yesterday while on a tour of moshavim in the Be'er Tuvia region yesterday.

Tsur said if the local meat industry did not increase its output, Israel would have to increase imports.

He also expressed dissatisfaction at the present quality of frozen meat imports.

Osem reports rise in annual net earnings

Fourth quarter net profits stay stable

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

OSEM yesterday announced stable fourth quarter net profits of NIS 13.2 million, the same figure reported in the parallel period in 1993.

Fourth quarter revenues jumped to NIS 215.7m. from NIS 159.48m.

Annual net profits rose to NIS 53.6m. from NIS 50.8m., while earnings per share went up to NIS 0.96 from NIS 0.95.

Revenues rose to NIS 874.9m. from NIS 777.7m.

Osem exports increased 37% during the year.

The company pointed out that 1993 results were influenced by a NIS 8.8m. one-time revenue on a subsidiary's sale of SunFrost shares.

Osem also commented on its negotiations with Swiss-based multinational Nestle concerning both strategic partnerships and distribution.

Osem said it considers it an outstanding opportunity to work with Nestle, a company with a \$40 billion annual turnover.

Hed Artzi Music reported a fall in fourth quarter net profits to NIS 618,000 from NIS 752,000 in 1993.

Fourth quarter revenues rose to NIS 17.2m. from NIS 14.9m.

Annual net profits fell to NIS 3.8m. from NIS 7.8m.

Yearly revenues went up to NIS 73.7m. from NIS 67.2m.

Discount Investments posted a decline in fourth quarter net profits to NIS 19m. from NIS 34.2m. during the same period in 1993.

The company experienced a NIS 49m. loss on shares traded on the TASE.

Annual profits dropped to NIS 87.5m. from NIS 213m. in 1993, while earnings per share dropped to NIS 9.3 from NIS 22.8 in 1993.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

British Gas to play part in local natural gas market: British Gas has expressed its readiness to join the local natural gas market, according to an announcement made by the company's director-general Richard Giordano. He made the announcement after meeting with outgoing Energy Ministry Director-General Amos Ron and his replacement, Assaf Shaleg.

Giordano offered to have Israel import natural gas from the company's storage facilities in Egypt and said British Gas would be willing to market its gas here along with Israeli companies.

The Energy Ministry director-general said the government has not yet decided on the make-up of the country's future gas market, adding the World Bank was carrying out a study to determine the best arrangement for the economy and the recommended level of government involvement in it.

\$800 million in government guarantees for IAI approved: The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved \$800 million worth of government guarantees for Israel Aircraft Industries, to enable it to get \$200m. worth of cash advances it needs to accept additional contracts. Due to the company's financial troubles, Israeli banks would not agree to the advances without the partial government guarantee. The committee also

yesterday approved extending a \$100m. government guarantee for Tass-Israel Industries for another two years, for the same reason.

Panel to set wages of senior management in state bodies: The cabinet economic committee yesterday agreed to establish a professional committee to set the wages of senior management in government bodies, such as the Broadcasting Authority. Currently the director of wages sets the salaries individually for the senior managers for each of the approximately 50 government bodies. The committee is expected to categorize the bodies and set general criteria for salaries.

The cabinet committee also established a panel to approve the creation of new binational industrial research and development cooperation funds. The panel will insure coordination among the responsible ministries before such funds are established.

EFI has announced the launching of its long-awaited Fiery XJ product line. The company is a leader in the relatively new field of short-run color document processing. The Fiery XJ color servers are scheduled for shipment during the second quarter. "This represents a major breakthrough," said EFI president Dan Avida. "The new architecture enables the delivery of photographic quality output at speeds exceeding 40 pages per minute for less than 30 cents per page." EFI timed the announcement to coincide with the CeBit exposition in Germany, which ends today.

WORLD BRIEFS

France, EU defuse row over Credit Lyonnais: France and the European Commission appeared yesterday to have averted a row over how to rescue Credit Lyonnais, one of Europe's leading banks, without harming competition in the banking sector. French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery said after meeting European Competition Commissioner Karel Van Miert that the two sides were close on France's rescue package for the bank.

The bank, whose troubles stem from a string of bad investments, is expected to report 1994 full year losses of around FR 10 billion (\$2 billion), compared with FR 6.9b. (\$1.38b.) in 1993. The state rescue follows another government bailout totaling FR 23.3b. (\$4.6b.) in 1994.

Economists cool to Greenspan's price commission idea: Economists gave a cool reception to Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's call for a commission to adjust government programs such as Social Security for inflation, warning it could spawn new problems.

Economists called the idea - pitched Monday by Greenspan as he reiterated that the government's Consumer Price Index overstates inflation - a political fig leaf for lawmakers wary of cutting Social Security and raising taxes to shrink the deficit. They worried that rulings on cost-of-living adjustments by an independent commission could create confusion among businesses and consumers who now use the CPI as a benchmark for inflation in various private agreements.

West German wholesale price data fuel inflation fears: West German wholesale prices showed their biggest rise in over five years in February, the Federal Statistics Office said yesterday, triggering fears that inflationary pressures could be building up. The wholesale price index rose 0.7 percent in February from January and was 3.4% higher than in January 1994.

Saatchi boosts profits by 69%: British advertiser Saatchi & Saatchi yesterday reported a 69 percent jump in profits that, until three months ago, would have been hailed as dynamic progress for a group on the brink of bankruptcy in 1990. But the group admitted that the chaos unleashed by its sacking of Maurice Saatchi as chairman in December meant prospects had taken a turn for the worse, and it was forced to pull plans to pay shareholders their first dividend since 1989.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (13.3.95)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.375	5.500	6.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.750	5.125	6.000
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.500	3.625	4.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.500	2.750	3.375
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.825	0.750

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shetel Foreign Exchange Rates* (14.3.95)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.4100	3.4800	3.4800	3.4442
U.S. dollar	2.9543	2.9500	2.9500	2.9500
German mark	2.0227	2.1223	2.05	2.15
French franc	4.8917	4.7879	4.59	4.82
Japanese yen (100)	0.5885	0.5900	0.57	0.61
Swiss franc	3.2386	3.2822	3.18	3.30
British pound	1.8688	1.8600	1.83	1.86
Swedish krona	2.5184	2.5520	2.47	2.50
Scandinavian krona	0.4075	0.4132	0.40	0.42
Scandinavian krona	0.4657	0.4703	0.46	0.48
Scandinavian krona	0.5211	0.5284	0.51	0.53
Scandinavian krona	0.5725	0.5800	0.56	0.58
Scandinavian krona	2.0342	2.1136	2.05	2.14
Scandinavian krona	2.3027	2.3238	2.18	2.30
Scandinavian krona	0.8139	0.8254	0.79	0.82
Scandinavian krona	1.0138	1.0281	1.00	1.04
Scandinavian krona	2.9723	3.0183	2.92	3.03
Scandinavian krona	1.7543	1.7791	1.71	1.81
Scandinavian krona	—	—	4.20	4.48
Scandinavian krona	3.9314	3.8855	0.84	0.90
Scandinavian krona	4.8903	4.7465	4.57	4.85
Scandinavian krona	2.2846	2.3171	2.22	2.37

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

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Upbeat March continues on stock exchange

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO



THE trading results for yesterday are a continuation of the positive trend in evidence since the beginning of the month. The Two-Sided index has thus accumulated an increase of more than 10 percent in barely two weeks.

Yesterday, both the Two-Sided and the Maof rose 1.4%, while the Karam rose 1%.

Turnover was NIS 65.9 million.

The day's trading opened as though the market was going to undergo a profit-taking session.

The relative sell and buy orders on the Meretz market were clearly outlining this as a possibility. However, this did not last.

Traders are expecting such a session, and are growing distinctly nervous about the fact that the market has gone up so much without such a move.

Traders were also nervous regarding today's publication of the Consumer Price Index, which will have a considerable effect on the market. The rise in the CPI for February is going to depend mainly on housing prices, which are expected to have resumed their upward spiral.

In such a case, the question remains whether their inflationary influence will be enough to compensate for the lower prices for fruit and vegetables and clothing.

In this context, it must be pointed out that there is genuine concern as to the development of the construction sector, and the clearest indicator is the fact that the banks are tightening the amount of equity requested when granting construction loans.

March, and especially April, are likely to be relatively inflationary, since they will reflect higher prices in those items which were cheaper in February.

The stock market needs a low index now to push interest prices down.

A lower interest rate is likely to do two things - improve the atmosphere in the economy in general and on the stock market in particular, and second reduce the pace of foreign currency conversions and stop the devaluation of the shekel.

The bets are that should the CPI rise be 0.2% or less, the governor of the Bank of Israel will have to reduce interest rates.

Should the increase be higher than 0.2% but lower than 0.5%, it will depend on the composition of the index (in particular the housing clause). Any result higher than 0.5% will keep interest rates where they are.

On the Two-Sided market, there was a 9 to 1 ratio between rises and declines.

There were no spectacular rises, only a few interesting ones. They affected the securities which are popular among money managers - Karam, which went up 5.4%; Pecker rose 5.7%, Feuchtwanger was up 5.2%, Polgar rose 3.9%; and Evergreen jumped 7.2%.

Hanal continued its downward slide and dropped 14.2%. Among the blue chips, Teva was the most widely traded security, and its price rose 1.3% on a turnover of NIS 4m. Investment Discount was up 3.5% on a turnover of NIS 3.9m. Koor rose by 2.3% on a turnover of NIS 3.9m.

FTSE surges up 38.8 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British blue chips surged on optimism that weaker-than-expected US retail sales and British CBI retail survey figures for February would reduce near-term pressure for further increases in interest rates.

The FTSE 100 surged to close up 38.8 points at 3050.6 on an upturn in trading volume as a rally on Wall Street lifted US stocks as well.

FRANKFURT - German shares ended bourse trade mostly steady, still hovering near the 2,000 level which is seen as a likely settlement price for Friday's expiry. Dealings were muted as the market awaits the US data.

The DAX was not seen trading below 1,950 in afternoon dealings though. A weak dollar still weighs on the market as foreign investors continue to sell German shares in favor of buying currencies.

The 30-share DAX Index closed up 0.96 points at 2,000.45. PARIS - French shares finished on the day's high with a massive advance of 2.75 percent

old record of 4,035.61 reached last Friday.

The bullish mood on Wall Street also extended to the Nasdaq Index, which rose 5.93 points to a new closing high of 808.24, surpassing the old milestone of 803.93 set March 18, 1994.

Dow Jones ends at new high

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial index ended at a record high yesterday in a rally propelled by a steep drop in long-term bond interest rates.

Based on early and unofficial data, the index closed up 23.52 points at 4,048.75, eclipsing the

MARK STERLING YEN SFR FFf

MARK 2.2440/50 143.85/97 1.8300/57 7.9444/42

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SFR 0.2822/25 0.1257/89 18.09/15 0.2344/47

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Key Representative Rates

	Change
US dollar ... NIS 2.9830	-0.27%
Sterling ... NIS 4.7406	+0.22%
Mark ... NIS 2.1149	-0.62%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	4048.75	+23.52
DJ Transp.	1570.32	+10.00
DJ Comp.	1867.7	+10.00
NYSE Transp.	337.24	+1.48
NYSE Comp.	344.12	+1.35
NYSE Ind.	342.25	+1.35
S&P 500 Index	4048.75	+23.52
AMEX Comp.	453.91	+0.85

Unchanged Advances Declines

Volume up (in 1000s)	734	1401	730
Volume down (in 1000s)	19599		

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3050.6	+38.8
London metal	1824.5	+25.8
Singapore Nikkei	1824.5	+25.8
Hong Kong Hang Seng	808.24	+5.93
Taipei TSE	1557.0	+10.0

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX		
Am Is Pop	48.125	+0.025
Ampel A	5.75	+0.125
Aryt	1.25	0
BioTechnology	2.34375	-0.08125
Carnal Core	A	+0.125

NLRB finds against baseball owners

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Labor Relations Board yesterday told baseball owners it would issue an unfair labor practice complaint against them, raising the possibility the players' strike could become a lockout.

Management lawyers Chuck O'Connor and Frank Casey were informed of the decision in a two-hour meeting with NLRB general counsel Fred Feinstein and New York regional director Daniel Silverman.

Feinstein said the complaint would allege the owners "did not properly follow the rules of collective bargaining" when they eliminated salary arbitration and rules relating to free agency.

"The remedy we will seek will be restoration of these terms until such time as a new agreement is reached or until the parties bargain to a good-faith

impasse on these issues," Feinstein said.

The NLRB action could set the stage for the agency to seek an injunction in federal court against the owners to restore baseball's 1994 work rules relating to free agency, salary arbitration and signing policies.

If an injunction is granted, it could lead to the players ending their seven-month strike — an action that in turn could result in the owners locking out the major leaguers and starting the season with replacement players they now are using in spring training.

Feinstein is expected to ask the NLRB's five-member board for permission to seek the preliminary injunction in federal court.

The season is scheduled to start in 19 days.

Real Madrid wins spot in European Final Four

BRIAN FREEMAN

REAL MADRID won a ticket to the Final Four with a 82-70 home victory over Cibona Zagreb in the European Club Championship quarterfinals last night.

Joe Arlauckas scored 29 points and Arvidas Sabonis netted 22 to lead the Spaniards to a sweep of the best-of-three series. Real won Game 1 with a 82-78 victory at Zagreb last Thursday.

Veljko Mircic was the leading scorer for Cibona with 21 points.

Real returns to the Final Four for the second time in three seasons. In 1993, it was favored to capture the championship, but was defeated in the semifinals by eventual champions Limoges.

Last season, Real was swept in the quarterfinals by eventual champions Joventut Badalona.

Limoges 79, Scavolini Pesaro 66. Limoges evened its series with a victory over the visiting Italians.

The winner of the third and deciding game tomorrow at Limoges will advance to the Final Four in Zaragoza, Spain. Pesaro won Game 1 at home 68-55.

Limoges, which has not dropped a home game all season in the championships, was paced by Michael Young with 30 points.

The French champions dominated throughout, leading 29-15 after 15 minutes and 43-33 at the break after allowing Pesaro to chip into the advantage.

They rebuilt the lead to as many as 15 points and held on for the victory.

Panathinaikos 63, Bologna 55. Zarko Paspalj scored 27 points for host Panathinaikos to send the series to a third and deciding game tomorrow in Greece.

Bologna routed Panathinaikos 85-68 in Game 1 in Italy. Predrag Danilovic scored 16 last night for Bologna, which lost in the quarterfinals last season to Olympiakos.

Olympiakos 86, CSKA 77. Olympiakos forced a third and decisive Game 3 tomorrow in Greece with a victory over visiting CSKA Moscow behind the 28 points of Eddie Johnson.

CSKA thrashed Olympiakos 95-65 in Game 1 in Russia.

Chelsea beats Club Brugge

LONDON (Reuters) — Chelsea beat Club Brugge 2-0 last night in a Cup Winners' Cup match.

Scoring for England were Mark Stein (16th) and Paul Furlong (38th). Chelsea wins 2-1 on aggregate.

Also last night, Karlsruher Riedel scored with a header in injury time to give Borussia Dortmund a 2-0 victory over Lazio Rome and put his team in the semifinals of the UEFA Cup.

Lazio had won the first leg 1-0 two weeks ago but went out 2-1 on aggregate.

Riedel's winning goal came after the expulsion of Lazio's Argentine defender Jose Antonio Chamot, who got his second yellow card of the game for a rough tackle on Stephane Chapuisat.

Chapuisat took the free kick himself and sent a clever cross to the far post, where Riedel, always a threat in the air, rose above the Italian defense and headed the ball in for the dramatic victory.

ENGLISH SOCCER — yesterday's results: PREMIER LEAGUE: Crystal Palace 2, Sheffield Wednesday 1; Liverpool 2, Coventry 3. DIVISION ONE: Middlesbrough 1, Barnsley 1; Oldham 1, Notts County 1; Port Vale 1, Stoke 1. DIVISION TWO: Wrexham 3, Rochester 1; York 0, Wycombe 4. DIVISION THREE: Bury 3, Barnet 0; Watford 2, Darlington 0.

Grobelaar arrested for match-fixing

SOUTHAMPTON (AP) — Goalkeepers Bruce Grobbelaar of Southampton, Hans Segers of Wimbledon and Aston Villa striker John Fashanu were arrested yesterday in connection with match-fixing allegations, police said.

Also arrested were a Malaysian businessman and Fashanu's girlfriend, Melissa Kassamapi.

Hampshire police identified the fourth person arrested as Heng Suan Lim, a Malaysian businessman living in London. His arrest lends weight to previous allegations that a Malaysian gambling syndicate was behind the match-fixing scandal.

No charges were immediately filed. Hampshire police detective Rod Davis said Grobbelaar was arrested "on suspicion of being involved in a conspiracy to defraud."

"There is an operation going on which will probably expand the inquiry from that which was initiated in Hampshire seven months ago," he said.

Grobelaar, 37, looked stunned as he was led from his house after an hour of questioning by police. The Zimbabwean goalkeeper and former Liverpool star refused to comment to reporters as he left his house before being driven to Southampton police headquarters.

"This morning Hampshire police undertook an operation into allegations of corruption involving football league matches," a police spokesman said. "The inquiry is now continuing and there may be more developments through the day but at the present time we can say nothing more than this."

Grobelaar was put under investigation in November after a tabloid newspaper published allegations that he received bribes from a Far East gambling syndicate to throw matches while playing for Liverpool.

Grobelaar denied the charges, which were based on allegations made by his former Zimbabwean business partner Chris Vincent.

The Sun newspaper alleged

Grobelaar received £40,000 to let in goals during a match between Liverpool and Newcastle last season. The gambling syndicate allegedly made £3m on the match, which Newcastle won 3-0.

The syndicate was believed to be based in Malaysia, where 14 players and two former coaches have been arrested recently in a match-fixing scandal. Five others are expected to be arrested soon.

After the allegations against Grobbelaar were published, the Football Association charged him with misconduct but allowed him to continue playing while police pursued their investigation. He has also continued to play in international matches for Zimbabwe.

The day after Grobbelaar was charged by the FA, Fashanu said attempts were being made to link him to the scandal. Fashanu, 31, is a well-known television personality in Britain as co-host of the Gladiators show. He is also a representative for UNICEF.

Fashanu joined Aston Villa this season after several years at Wimbledon, where he was a teammate of Segers.

The 33-year-old Dutch goalie joined Wimbledon in 1988 after earlier stints with Nottingham Forest, Sutton and Sheffield United. He was dropped for last Saturday's home game against Sheffield United, only the fifth match he has missed in five seasons.

The FA said it would not prevent the three players from continuing to play, adding it was up to the clubs to decide.

The arrests marked the latest blow to the image of English soccer, which has suffered a series of scandals this season.

Manchester United striker Eric Cantona has been suspended until next October for his flying kick on a taunting Crystal Palace spectator. Cantona and teammate Paul Ince have both been charged with assault in the incident and face a court appearance March 23.

George Graham was fired as Arsenal manager last month and charged with misconduct by the FA for allegedly receiving under-the-table transfer payments.



UNDER FIRE — Bruce Grobbelaar (l) of Southampton and Wimbledon's Hans Segers are accused of throwing matches (AP)

PRISON NOTES

IN — Former Olympian jailed for extortion

Anun Josipovic, who won a heavyweight gold medal for Yugoslavia at the 1984 Olympic Games, was sentenced to two years in prison yesterday after being found guilty of blackmail and intimidation.

Josipovic, 34, was accused of trying to extort DM 20,000 from the owner of a downtown Zagreb doughnut shop.

OUT — Tonya's Ex released from prison

Jeff Gillooly finished his sentence for the attack on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan.

Sentenced to two years in prison for racketeering, the ex-husband of figure skater Tonya Harding was released on Monday after serving just six months by going through the Oregon Summit boot camp program.

Gillooly changed his name last week to Jeff Stone.

OUT ON BAIL — Wise assuages taxi driver

Chelsea and England midfielder Dennis Wise was sentenced to three months in jail Monday for assaulting a 65-year-old taxi driver. He was freed on bail pending an appeal.

JUST VISITING — Bowe, Tyson chat

Riddick Bowe met Mike Tyson in prison Monday night, and the two boxers talked about a possible \$120 million fight after the former heavyweight champion is released.

"Mike is the best heavyweight out there, as far as I'm concerned. It will be a dream for me to face Mike. Not to mention there will be a whole lot of money involved."

Tyson, who is scheduled for release on March 25, was sentenced to six years in prison for rape.

Skiles, Muresan rally Bullets past Hornets

CHARLOTTE (Reuters) — Fiery point guard Scott Skiles and Romanian giant Gheorghe Muresan combined to rally the Washington Bullets down the stretch for a 106-103 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Monday.

Juwan Howard scored 18 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for Washington, which used a 21-8 run to open the fourth quarter and erase most of a 15-point deficit. But Charlotte scored the next six points to go up 101-93 with 3:34 left.

"I told my team that when you are down by 13 or 20 points you are still not out of it," said Skiles, who notched 14 points and eight assists. "The team must have listened to me."

Washington, in last place in the Atlantic Division at 17-44, countered with 3-pointers from Rex Chapman and Skiles to open an 8-0 run. The spurt was capped at

1:08 on a Muresan dunk which knotted the game at 101-101.

A hook shot with 50.6 seconds to go by Alonzo Mourning, who scored 32 points, pulled down 14 rebounds and blocked five shots, gave the Hornets, in first place in the Central Division at 39-23, a brief two-point lead but Muresan followed with a game-winning three-point play with 28 seconds left.

Dell Curry missed a jumper with 12 seconds on the clock that would have put Charlotte in front. Skiles was fouled and made two free throws at 2.6 seconds to seal the victory.

The 7-foot-7 (2.01m) Muresan, not known for his grace or scoring punch, finished with 13 points.

"He was tough defensively and especially late in the game when we tried to double down," said Charlotte head coach Allan Bristow of the Bullets' center. "He

moved to the right position to stop it and he got the big three-point play down the stretch. He's definitely a factor when he's in the game."

Chapman chipped in 16 points for the Bullets, who shot 41-19 (73.7 percent) in the fourth quarter.

Larry Johnson added 22 points and Tyrone Bogue had 12 points and 14 assists for the Hornets, who had won five straight at home and have won eight of their past 11 games.

Lakers 93, Pacers 91. Lloyd Daniels' three-point play with 12.9 seconds to play lifted host Los Angeles.

After Reggie Miller made a pair of free throws to give Indiana a 91-89 lead with 1:22 remaining, Los Angeles center Vladi Divac was fouled with 16 seconds to play. Divac made the first but missed the second.

After a struggle for the rebound, Daniels grabbed a loose ball, went back out of the lane and, as he was

fouled by Rik Smits, banked a jumper off the glass. Daniels made the free throw to put the Lakers up by two.

Reggie Miller missed a 3-pointer with 2.5 seconds to play and Antonio Davis missed a tip-in before time expired for Indiana, which had its three-game winning streak stopped.

Daniels finished with 22 points and Divac added 21 for the Lakers, who rallied from a 17-point deficit to win their third straight home game.

Miller scored 17 points and Smits added 15 for Indiana, which was trying to sweep a four-game road trip.

Mavericks 130, Warriors 125. Jason Kidd posted career highs with 30 points and 17 assists as visiting Dallas snapped a four-game losing streak.

Jason Kidd scored 28 points and Scott Brooks added a season-high 21 for Dallas, which has won three straight games over the Warriors after losing 14 in a row.

MONDAY'S RESULTS: Washington 106, Charlotte 103; Houston 97, Atlanta 86; LA Lakers 93, Indiana 91; Dallas 130, Golden State 125.

Syracuse cold on NCAA eve

SYRACUSE (AP) — Syracuse faces two opponents in the first round of the NCAA tournament. First, there is Southern Illinois. Then there are the Orangemen themselves.

"Nobody has to tell us. We are losing games because of the dumb mistakes we are making," said senior co-captain Lucious Jackson.

Syracuse (19-9), a seventh-seed, plays the 10th-seeded Saluki (23-8) on Friday in Austin, Texas, in the opening round. The game matches up one of the country's hottest teams against one of the coldest.

The Orangemen, after a 16-2 start, finished the season by losing 7 of their last 10 games, including a 71-69 OT loss to Providence in the Big East quarterfinals.

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said there is nothing drastically wrong with his team, which has made a habit of blowing big leads, including a 17-point second-half lead against Providence.

While mental mistakes have haunted Syracuse during its slump, Boeheim said the two most glaring problems have been the team's inability to handle pressure defenses and a lack of rebounding against bigger, more physical teams.

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL TENNIS — Club Hotel Elit satellite in Jaffa, first round, yesterday's results: Eyal Elit beat Tobias Hildebrand (Sweden) 6-3, 6-3; Gilad Bloom beat Georg Blumner (Austria) 6-2, 6-4; Lior Dahan beat Victor Nagy (Hungary) 6-3, 6-1 and Oran Motreanu lost to Eyal Gross (Italy) 6-1, 5-7, 6-4. The Ada Moses women's future circuit in Jaffa: Daniela Or-Shulim beat Shir Noy 6-4, 7-6(4); Lior Gabel lost to Nelly Barkan (Ukraine) 6-0, 6-4; Amit Ashkenazi lost to Jan Sokoletski 6-1, 6-2 and Dikla Zaitzky lost to Tessa Shapovalova 6-1, 6-0. UEFA Cup — In Turin: Juventus (Italy) 3, Eintracht Frankfurt (Germany) 0 (halftime 0-0). Juventus wins 4-1 on aggregate.

NHL — MONDAY'S RESULTS: Pittsburgh 4, Montreal 2; Washington 3, Tampa Bay 0; LA 4, Toronto 1; Dallas 4, Chicago 2.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
NY Rangers	13	10	3	29	74	65
Philadelphia	12	9	3	27	76	68
Washington	8	10	8	24	61	61
Florida	10	12	3	23	60	68
New Jersey	9	11	4	22	65	69
NY Islanders	9	12	3	21	58	69
Tampa Bay	9	15	2	20	65	78

Western Conference

Pacific Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	17	5	2	35	105	64
Quebec	17	5	2	35	95	61
Boston	12	10	2	26	66	61
Buffalo	9	8	3	21	51	57
Hartford	8	13	3	21	60	74
Montreal	8	11	6	21	51	72
Ottawa	3	15	4	10	48	72

Western Conference

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	15	6	2	32	87	60
Chicago	14	9	2	30	90	82
St. Louis	14	7	1	29	82	59
Toronto	11	11	4	26	71	74
Dallas	10	12	4	24	79	69
Winnipeg	9	12	3	21	66	85

Pacific Division

Pacific Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	11	9	2	27	80	65
Vancouver	8	8	7	23	78	77
San Jose	11	11	2	24	70	70
Edmonton	9	13	2	20	64	83
Los Angeles	8	11	4	20	72	88
Anaheim	5	15	2	14	51	88

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HOUSEHOLD HELP

Finance committee ducks decision on shipyards

Hundreds of workers stage rowdy protest

EVELYN GORDON and DAVID RUDGE

AS angry Israel Shipyards workers protested its privatization opposite the Knesset yesterday, the Finance Committee declined to vote on the sale of the company, giving the Treasury and workers more time to resolve their differences.

During the committee meeting, several hundred workers demonstrated in the Wohl Rose Garden opposite. Some of them succeeded in breaking down the fence separating them from the Knesset parking lot before being restrained by police and border policemen. The workers carried placards saying: "Privatization, yes. Workers rights, yes," and "Israel Shipyards was buried here."

An attempt by the Treasury and the workers to resume negotiations last night in Tel Aviv failed when the union rejected what they said was a "humiliating" offer for severance pay. The sides agreed to meet again in Haifa if the Treasury had a new proposal to offer for a severance scheme.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday the privatization would not be stopped, because the government would not hold on to industries in which it does not have to be involved.

At the same time, Shohat said workers' rights would be considered in the process, but tough decisions would have to be made.

In Haifa yesterday, port workers staged a 24-hour strike and sanctions were imposed for a shorter period at factories and public institutions in a show of support for striking Israel Shipyards employees.

Among the places affected by the

four-hour stoppage were Rafael, the Oil Refineries, and the Israel Electric Corporation.

Haifa Municipality workers and those at other local authorities in the district also took part in the solidarity stoppage and offices were closed to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There were also reports that the stoppage affected the railways timetable, with some trains running late. The sanctions reportedly hit fuel supplies to gas stations, petrochemical industries in Haifa's bay-side industrial area, as well as businesses such as bakeries.

IEC workers downed tools, although there were no reports of any disruptions to power supplies as a result. The 24-hour strike by the Haifa Port workers, from 6 a.m. yesterday through to this morning, caused a backlog of ships in the port.

Yesterday's stoppages were timed to coincide with the finance committee meeting. Within the Knesset, however, the situation was calm. Having faced similar scenes during deliberations on the sale of Shekem and Israel Chemicals, the Knesset staff was prepared for the delegation of about 20 workers allowed inside. Barricades were set up to keep them out of the area immediately outside the committee room, and several Knesset ushers were stationed in the hallway to keep order.

The committee is tentatively scheduled to discuss the sale again on Sunday.

The reigning sentiment among committee members appeared to be disgust and anger that such mob scenes recur every time another

company is privatized. Most blamed the Treasury for not sitting with the workers before asking the committee's approval.

"It keeps repeating itself," said Shmuel Avital (Labor). "Once again we have a privatization where, instead of the finance minister [and other Treasury officials] ... dealing with the workers' problems, it all comes to the Finance Committee ... and creates an untenable set of pressures."

"I recommend taking privatization out of the Finance Committee's hands," said Silvan Shalom (Likud), who has submitted a bill to do so. "There are always pressures from interested parties and from the workers [that the committee is not equipped to handle]."

Eitan Shafir, deputy head of the Government Companies Authority, rejected charges of Treasury negligence. "It is the company's managers who are supposed to negotiate with the workers," he said.

Workers are asking for a three-year work agreement; a promise that for the next 10 years, fired workers will be compensated according to a 1994 agreement (which offers a maximum of 180% compensation); and a voluntary retirement program offering equivalent severance pay for 36 months. They also want to be given 10% of the revenue from the sale.

The government is so far willing to guarantee existing severance pay levels for only two years, and is offering only 3% of the sale price.



Soldiers celebrate Purim with children in Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem yesterday. The holiday, commemorating the victory of the Jews over Haman and his evil decrees in ancient Persia, will be celebrated tonight and tomorrow everywhere but in Jerusalem. In Jerusalem the holiday will begin tomorrow night, and end Friday before Shabbat. The day-long fast of Esther is being observed today. (Photo: Avi Hayoun. Text: Herb Keinson)

Bezek workers halt sanctions

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEK workers returned to their jobs yesterday after two weeks of sanctions.

Their protest caused over 15,000 phone lines to go unpaired. It will take several days before all lines are functioning again.

Bezek management said that after conducting checks of workplaces, all staffers were found to be at their jobs at 9 a.m., as the union had promised company director-general Yitzhak Kaul.

Union spokesmen refused to explain why they had suddenly returned to work, but Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was apparently behind the decision.

Yesterday, Rabin acceded to the request of Histradrut Trade Union chief MK Amir Peretz that he hold a meeting on the Bezek dispute within 48 hours.

The meeting will include Peretz, Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

The workers have been protesting against the government's decision last year to break Bezek's monopoly in overseas dialing infrastructure, and to publish a public tender for the selection of two more companies.

The union claims that 5,000 staffers will be fired if Bezek loses its monopoly.

Ben-Yair wants Baruch Goldstein book checked for possible illegality

HERB KEINON

FORMER Kach activists said that in less than 24-hours yesterday they sold 6,000 books memorializing Baruch Goldstein, who killed 29 Muslims in the Machpela Cave last Purim. The sales figures could not be independently confirmed.

Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair instructed the police to investigate the book and see if its publication violates the law. Police Minister Moshe Shahal told Israel Radio he was "shocked to the depths of my soul" by the book.

The hard-cover, light-blue book has a picture of Goldstein on the cover receiving a certificate of merit from the IDF, and a picture of his grave in Kiryat Arba on the back.

The book is called *Baruch Hagover*, which can be translated *Baruch, the Man*, but is a take-off on a verse from Psalms that reads, "Blessed is the man (*baruch hagover*) who trusts in God."

The editor of the book is Michael

Ben-Horin, of Moshav Nov in the Golan, who was one of the right wing activists placed in administrative detention soon after last year's massacre. The book, which includes pictures, is full of tributes to Goldstein and sold for NIS 40.

Former Kach head Baruch Marzel said that a second printing, numbering some 4,000 books, is now in the works. According to Marzel, some 600 books were sold in Kiryat Arba, which he said "was expected." What was unexpected, he said, is that 80 copies were sold in Tiberias, and 150 in Tel Aviv.

In Jerusalem's Mea She'arim, however, a few Kach activists selling the books on the street were forced to close up shop by angry haredim who condemned Goldstein's action. But Marzel said the haredim were angry because the

book features IDF officers on the cover.

Miriam Levinger, the wife of Hebron Rabbi Moshe Levinger, wrote in the book, "I am full of admiration for him. He was righteous. He had a great love for the people of Israel, and with all his strength tried to make things easier for the people of Israel."

The book includes a halachic essay written by Rabbi Ido Elba entitled "Clarification of the Halachot pertaining to the murder of Gentiles." In this essay, Elba—who was indicted on charges of incitement to racism for the essay—writes that the Biblical injunction "Thou shalt not kill" does not pertain to Jews who kill non-Jews.

The purpose of the book, Marzel said, is to present Goldstein as "the righteous man he was."

The book includes Goldstein's bar mitzva speech, as well as interviews he gave to local newspapers.

Kach members fail to show up at Knesset

LIAT COLLINS and HERB KEINON

THE planned Knesset visit by three members of the outlawed Kach movement failed to take place yesterday after two members refused the Speaker's request for permission to review their police files and the third, under house arrest, was not allowed to leave his home.

Ben-Zion Gopstein Baruch Marzel and Noam Federman were invited by Moleket MK Shaul Guttman, who called the visit "private" and accused Speaker Shevah Weiss of conducting a "witch hunt" and the "undemocratic gagging of mouths."

Last week some 15 Kachniks apparently held an executive meeting in an empty Knesset committee room. News of their visit infuriated many MKs, although an initial investigation showed that their names were not on the list of those banned from entering the Knesset building. The list is usually reserved for those the police recommend be banned for criminal or security reasons.

Yesterday, Gopstein and Federman refused to sign authorization to allow the Knesset Guard to review their police files before deciding on whether to allow them to enter or not. As a result, they were asked to leave by the guards. Marzel was not

allowed to leave his home in Tel Rumeida in Hebron.

Weiss earlier said that even if Marzel had received the necessary police permission to leave, he would not be allowed in the Knesset as he had violated his detention last week by visiting the Knesset and meeting there with Federman and Tiran Polack despite a police ban.

In a related matter, the attorney-general yesterday ordered the police to investigate the activities of Kach, which was declared an illegal terror organization last year, but which has carried on with a number of activities.

Marzel said he does not fear the investigation, since Kach as an organization is dead. But this does not mean, he said, that former Kach activists are not continuing the group's work. "If a pot is declared not kosher, you change pots," he said. "You don't have to throw out all the food."

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz yesterday issued a directive yesterday to keep Kach and Kahane Ha' offices in Jerusalem closed for another three months. This is the second time a three-month extension on the order closing the offices has been issued.

Yair Levy sent back to regular jail

RAINE MARCUS

FORMER Shas MK Yair Levy must return to regular prison life at Ma'asiyahu jail for the next month before being allowed to rejoin his rehabilitation program, a Prisons Service committee ruled yesterday.

The seven-man committee convened to decide on Levy's fate following recent reports that he was spending his time at home instead of at the yeshiva where he is supposed to work as part of his rehabilitation program. After one month, he will be allowed to return to the program, which allows him to leave jail early in the morning and return at night.

A senior prison officer said yesterday that he thought the decision too lenient. During the month's punishment for "violating rehabilitation conditions" he will not receive weekend furloughs. After the month, he will be permitted to rejoin the program, working at the same yeshiva, but his weekend furloughs will be limited to once a month.

Levy was sentenced to five years' imprisonment by the Tel Aviv District Court two years ago for embezzling NIS 500,000 from Shas's El Hama'ayan non-profit association. The sentence was reduced to four years on appeal to the Supreme Court.

Since his imprisonment he has repeatedly complained of various illnesses and asked Police Minister Moshe Shahal for an early release, claiming that prison conditions are endangering his life.

Last December the rehabilitation committee recommended Levy's eligibility for the program.

Some 377 prisoners nationwide participate in the scheme, and according to regulations the Prisons Service must conduct surprise checks once a month to ensure the inmate is at his place of work.

But last Friday *Ha'aretz* reported that Levy spent time at home, at his local synagogue, and walking the streets of Bnei Brak instead of at the yeshiva.

Workers threaten to vandalize Kibbutz Ein Harod Ihud factory

DAVID RUDGE

TOP level talks were taking place last night in an effort to resolve a dispute which has closed the Palmah factory of Kibbutz Ein Harod Ihud.

Workers staging a sit-in at the plant threatened to burn furniture and production equipment if management tried to regain control or

works committee.

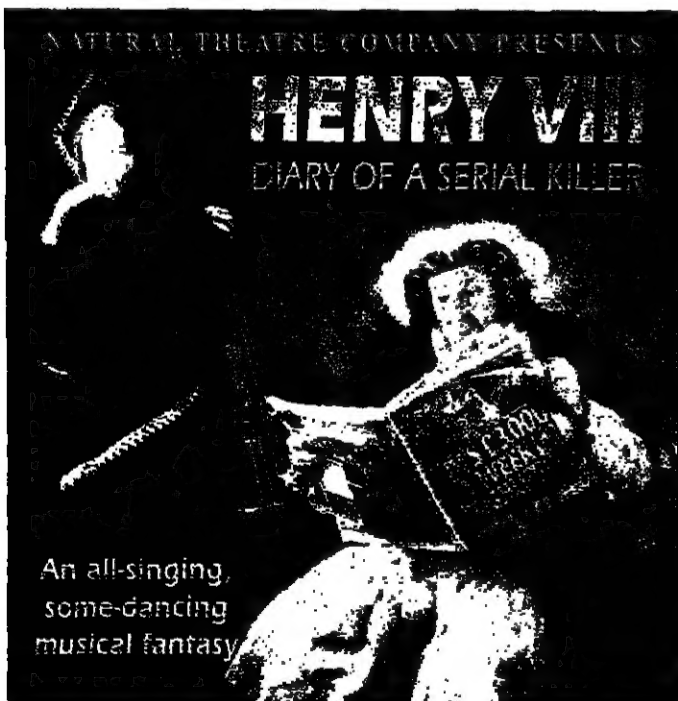
Management said the factory, which manufactures kitchen equipment for large-scale industrial concerns and institutions such as hospitals and army bases, had been hard hit by competition from abroad and cancellation of orders from the Defense Ministry.

The workers, however, demanded that they retain the conditions in existing work agreements, including preferential severance pay rights and other conditions.

As tempers began to boil over, management decided to close down the factory, to allow for a cooling off period and a resumption of talks. The plant employs 120 people, around three quarters of them from Beit She'an, Afula, Migdal Ha'emek and Upper Nazareth and the remainder from the Jezreel Valley kibbutz itself.

However, the closure had the opposite effect. The workers appointed an action committee and took over the plant where they have been staging a sit-in for the past few days.

Likud MK David Levy visited the factory yesterday and a meeting was arranged with management last night, with the help of Beit She'an and Afula Histradrut officials.



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CARMIEL - MUNICIPAL CULTURAL CENTER: 18.3 - 20:30
RAMAT EFAAL - AUDITORIUM: 11.3 - 20:30

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